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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

State of South-South cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General

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Foreword

1. The promotion and strengthening of economic cooperation among developing countries/technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) is a priority in the United Nations development system, working closely with Governments, intergovernmental organizations for ECDC/TCDC and other ECDC actors. Significantly, South-South cooperation is probably one of the areas in which the United Nations has particular relevance and potential, and where the proposed United Nations conference on South-South cooperation will offer a major opportunity for the system as a whole to display its ability to adapt to new and emerging challenges and to come up with practical solutions to increased ECDC/TCDC.

2. The policy commitment of the United Nations to ECDC/TCDC is reviewed in the first chapter of the present report. In keeping with its policy commitment to ECDC/TCDC, the United Nations development system has in the past supported a wide range of initiatives designed to promote increased South-South cooperation. Examples of such activities are provided in the subsequent chapters.

3. The review of policy commitment and activities in support of South-South cooperation is organized by major subject area and/or by agencies/organizations, listed alphabetically. It is by no means an exhaustive review, but rather an illustrative one. In citing these examples, one would not wish to lose sight of the fact that it is the developing countries themselves which are the prime movers of ECDC/TCDC. The United Nations development system perceives its role as being of a catalytic and supportive nature as well as, to the extent feasible, dynamic and innovative in developing new concepts and approaches. It will have to be recognized that in many of the United Nations agencies and organizations, activities in support of ECDC/TCDC are implemented with technical and financial support from the developed countries (such as contributions to trust funds). Support to South-South cooperation by the United Nations therefore has an element of North-South cooperation as well.

4. Broadly speaking, the ECDC/TCDC support activities executed by the United Nations system include compilation and dissemination of information on TCDC capacities and needs as well as their matching; orientation of national and United Nations staff on TCDC/ECDC mechanisms and procedures; identification of "success stories" and unique experiences and promotion of their adoption and adaptation elsewhere; use of developing countries' inputs (experts, training facilities, equipment) in programmes and projects; promotion of linkages between professionals and institutions as well as close collaboration with regional and subregional organizations; support for subregional and regional integration initiatives and organizations; promoting South-South trade expansion by way of improving trade and monetary and financial cooperation and related services; and, through the ECDC/TCDC modality, promote sectoral development objectives like food security and agriculture, education and culture, communications and technology, environment and population.

I. ECDC/TCDC: A PRIORITY THEME IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

5. The United Nations development system has incorporated South-South cooperation activities in its work as recommended by various meetings/ conferences/declarations including: the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (1978); the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly such as 44/211 of 22 December 1989 stressing the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries on a priority basis; decisions of the Economic and Social Council; recommendations of the legislative bodies of the various United Nations development agencies; and the Report of the South Commission (1990) which gave strong support to ECDC/TCDC. The promotion of ECDC/TCDC is a central mandate and feature of the development activities of many United Nations development agencies, while in others development programmes at the regional level are implemented which contribute to enhancing ECDC and TCDC. This can be gleaned from the discussion in this chapter on the policy commitment and approach to ECDC/TCDC of a selected number of organizations of the United Nations system (listed alphabetically).

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

6. FAO regards South-South cooperation as a key element in the developing countries' search for collective self-reliance and an essential contribution to the necessary structural changes required for a balanced and equitable process of world economic development. Accordingly, ECDC and TCDC are among the priorities of FAO's activities under its regular and field programmes, with FAO's governing bodies, the FAO General Conference and Council, and the respective FAO regional conferences giving continued attention to the matter. The Medium Term Plan 1994-1999, approved by the Twenty-seventh session of the FAO Conference (November 1993), provides a general framework for FAO's future support to TCDC/ECDC as cross-sectoral thematic priorities. The Conference underlined the need for support to both TCDC and ECDC to be continued and intensified.

7. FAO's support to TCDC has concentrated on key areas in the broad fields of land and water development, dairy and animal production, crop production and protection, fisheries, forestry, nutrition and rural development. The support has encompassed several means: inter-country consultations, training workshops, seminars and study tours designed to promote the exchange of experience and technical knowledge; expansion of information systems to disseminate TCDC data; and support to regional organizations and networks. FAO established a TCDC focal point in January 1979; as of January 1992 the focal point had assumed the coordinating role for ECDC as well and is assisted by a network of focal points in the various divisions and regional offices as well as by the FAO representatives at the country level. A TCDC agreement on the use of experts is among the new initiatives launched by FAO to increase the effectiveness and impact of programmes in developing countries. The scheme calls for a sharing of expenses between the country providing the experts, the beneficiary country and FAO. By June 1995, more than 60 countries had signed the agreement with FAO and a large number of other countries have expressed interest and are completing

their internal consultative procedures to join the scheme. A similar scheme has been launched by FAO to promote technical cooperation in the use of the experts among countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe. Both agreements provide for the use of an expert from a country in transition by a developing country and vice versa.

B. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Desertification

8. INCD adopted on 17 June 1994 the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. The Convention was opened for signature in Paris, on 14 and 15 October 1994. The Convention contains four regional implementation annexes: the African, the Asian, the Latin American and Caribbean and the Northern Mediterranean annex.

9. The benefits to be derived from cooperation among affected developing countries, and the importance of such cooperation, were recognized from the early days of the negotiations. Accordingly, the Convention now provides for such cooperation in many areas including: (i) environmental protection and the conservation of land and water resources; (ii) preparation of subregional and/or action programmes; (iii) transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies; (iv) protection and use of relevant traditional local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices; (v) exchange of information on local and traditional knowledge; (vi) joint research for the development of technologies for sustainable development; and (vii) public awareness and education programmes. Generally, the Convention corrupts developed countries to support the efforts of affected developing countries in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, including through the mobilization of financial resources. However, at the same time, the Convention (art. 20.6) encourages other Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, knowledge, know-how and techniques related to desertification and/or financial resources to these affected developing countries. The wording "other Parties" covers developing countries which are in a position to provide assistance of a financial or technical nature in all or some of the areas of cooperation outline above.

C. International Labour Organization

10. The 80th Session (1993) of the International Labour Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the organization to further fostering technical cooperation among developing countries. The Governing Body, in its turn, re-endorsed this policy when it examined, at its 261st Session (November 1994), the future strategy for ILO's technical cooperation programmes. ILO attaches particular importance to the promotion of TCDC/ECDC, in particular through funds made available under its regular budget technical cooperation. These have contributed to the creation and activities of a network of regional programmes and centres which have recently been replaced by 14 multidisciplinary teams operating on a subregional basis. Additionally, because of its tripartite character, efforts are made by ILO to promote TCDC among the "social partners": worker and employer organizations. The thrust of the effort is towards creating

an enabling capacity within these organizations in developing countries, principally through provision of grants, fellowships and training activities. Lately, ILO has been intensifying efforts to involve the social partners and other local NGOs in activities for the elimination of child labour. It is expected that the organizations participating in these activities will extend services to other organizations in need of support in the same country or subregion.

D. International Trade Centre

11. ITC supports South-South cooperation at the operational level, rather than through analysis and policy advice. ITC's approach to trade promotion between developing countries is based on three pillars: (i) the identification of trading opportunities, particularly at the subregional and regional levels; (ii) assistance to economic operators to take advantage of those opportunities; and (iii) support for the improvement of trade promotion infrastructure, such as trade information systems and institutional networks at the subregional, regional and interregional levels. The low level of trade among developing countries in general, and sometimes between countries in the same geographical area in particular, is often interpreted to signify the absence of South-South trade potential. ITC is of a different view and has in many instances been able to identify and quantify trading opportunities, pointing to trade potentials that exceed current trade levels by several times. The importance ITC attaches to South-South trade promotion, ECDC and TCDC is illustrated clearly in the composition of inputs to, and inputs of, its technical cooperation activities. A large percentage of the experts hired by ITC are nationals of developing countries - 38 per cent in 1993 - and account for 45 per cent of all related work-months during the year. A growing number of developing countries provide direct trust fund contributions; these contributions more than doubled between 1991 and 1993.

E. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

12. ECDC/TCDC is central to the mandate and functions of UNCHS, and has been promoted in a number of ways. In the selection of consultants and project personnel, UNCHS takes into account their technical capacity and working experience in developing countries. UNCHS operates with an extensive roster of experts, many of whom come from developing countries. Consequently, the vast majority of its consultants and project personnel are drawn from developing country expertise. In addition, close to 60 per cent of the equipment and subcontracts in its projects are procured from developing countries. The fact that UNCHS has its headquarters in a developing country (Kenya) greatly facilitates the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

F. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

13. UNCTAD has been associated with ECDC as far back as 1968 when it established a special programme on trade expansion and economic integration among developing countries. The activities carried out by UNCTAD fall into two major categories: first, intellectual underpinning for ECDC is provided through research, analysis and suggestions which have played a role in shaping the ECDC debate over the past decades; second, advisory and technical assistance is provided to help establish ECDC programmes and institutions and implement cooperation activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The activities are aimed primarily at strengthening subregional and regional economic integration and at facilitating and expanding South-South trade, as well as contributing to strengthening monetary and financial cooperation among developing countries, encouraging and facilitating cooperation among developing country enterprises in support of South-South trade expansion and technology cooperation programmes.

14. The eighth session of UNCTAD held in 1992 at Cartagena, Colombia, placed ECDC firmly as one of the core activities of UNCTAD in the period ahead and established a Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries. The Standing Committee held three sessions (1993, 1994 and 1995). At its first session the Standing Committee established its programme of work dealing with the promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries, the encouragement of enterprise cooperation, the strengthening of subregional and regional integration and the fostering of interregional cooperation, the enlargement and deepening of monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries, the establishment of regular consultations between participants in ECDC programmes and projects and the donor community, as well as the review of technical support, assistance and skill development.

15. At its second and third sessions, the Standing Committee, as a policy-making intergovernmental body, reviewed and monitored the different components of its work programme and made recommendations for their implementation. To deal with regular consultations, an intergovernmental group of experts met in 1994 and made recommendations which were endorsed by the Standing Committee at its second session the same year. The third session was held from 19 to 23 June 1995 and, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 49/96, its outcome was taken into account by the intergovernmental meeting of experts which met in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995, in order to formulate recommendations for expanding South-South cooperation. For its part, the UNCTAD secretariat has been implementing the work programme through research and studies, advisory missions, seminars, technical assistance and other suitable means.

G. United Nations Development Programme

16. The promotion of ECDC/TCDC has been a priority of UNDP since the mid-1970s following the adoption by the UNDP Governing Council of the "new dimensions" decision in 1975. The United Nations Conference on TCDC (September 1978) assigned a special role to UNDP for the promotion of TCDC (while also supporting ECDC initiatives). Since then UNDP has sought to pursue a systematic programme

of TCDC in support of the development objectives of the developing countries. At the same time emphasis has been placed on increased utilization of the technical resources of the developing countries in traditional technical cooperation activities and building up centres of excellence in the South. In its decision 90/34 of June 1990, the Governing Council of UNDP identified TCDC as one of the six priority themes for technical cooperation in its Fifth Programming Cycle (1992-1996). The Special Unit on TCDC was created within UNDP which has prime responsibility for promoting TCDC. In addition to providing direct support to South-South cooperation through promoting TCDC, UNDP, as the major funding organization of the United Nations, plays a crucial role in the technical assistance provided by all the United Nations development bodies for development activities including those pertaining to ECDC/TCDC. A particularly significant development in the area of TCDC during 1995 was the endorsement by the ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (New York, 30 May-2 June 1995) of the recommendations as contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3) which calls for a more strategic focus for technical cooperation among developing countries and on selecting priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as eduction, health, transfer of technology and rural development, other institutions and entities in both the public and private sectors, particularly in developed countries, to incorporate the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes for technical cooperation.

H. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

17. UNESCO has undertaken a number of activities and initiatives within the framework of South-South cooperation in the areas of education, natural sciences, culture and communication. With respect to natural sciences, for example, the first of a newsletter of the South-South cooperation programme on environmentally sound socio-economic development in the humid tropics, entitled "South-South Perspectives", was launched in October 1994. The newsletter is a joint effort of UNESCO, the Man and the Biosphere programme, the United Nations University and the Third World Academy. UNESCO is executing over 50 national and regional projects within the framework of South-South cooperation. These projects, which concern mainly education and which are executed in the least developed countries, financed mainly from funds provided by regional development banks or from funds-in-trust, represent a total budget of US$ 8,194,000 of which US$ 4,149,000 were foreseen for execution during 1994.

I. United Nations Environment Programme

18. UNEP does not have many activities which can be categorized as TCDC in the traditional sense. UNEP, however, has quite extensive programmes at the regional level, many of which would enhance the direct and mutual collaboration among developing countries or foster the generation of regional common positions on important political agenda issues. UNEP is also undergoing a transition with

a view to becoming more proactive and responsive to the needs of countries. One of the most important changes is what could be called regional integration: strengthening of UNEP's regional offices, integration of programming between the regional offices and headquarters and increased regional delivery of UNEP's activities. Through their daily contacts with Governments, UNEP's regional offices provide information and, whenever relevant, liaise with the programme units at headquarters for information and assistance. In addition, regional offices have a limited amount of scholarships and consultancy funds available to Governments upon their request. Normally, such assistance is provided through bilateral negotiation/discussion between the environmental ministry and the regional director.

J. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

19. Given the prevailing limited resources for development purposes, the value of ECDC/TCDC as a vehicle for the industrial advancement of developing countries is fully recognized by UNIDO. Its Medium-Term Plan (1996-2001) places considerable emphasis on ECDC/TCDC programmes and activities. The programme draws its inspiration from the need to develop capacity and self-reliance in developing countries. To that end, it attempts to stimulate and support industrial development through the use of ECDC and TCDC mechanisms such as cooperation at the enterprise level, the development and implementation of investment promotion programmes, transfer of technology and fostering of mutually beneficial relations among entrepreneurs from the South. Most ECDC/TCDC promotional and supportive programmes/activities involve twinning of industrial research institutions; identification and strengthening of centres of excellence in developing countries to provide industrial training and expert advice; promotion of joint research and development programmes and linking of chambers of commerce and industry, industrial associations and other relevant institutions in various developing countries.

K. United Nations Population Fund

20. UNFPA has incorporated TCDC activities throughout the programme areas of its mandate. UNFPA finds itself in a fortunate situation in that it has a world-wide network of field offices: one in almost every developing country, either through the posting of a UNFPA national programme officer within the UNDP office, or by a separate UNFPA Office headed by at least one international staff member (country director); there are 68 such offices. More then half the country directors are recruited from developing countries. To ensure the quality of the implementation of the country programme it supervises, the UNFPA field office can count on technical backstopping from a country support team located in the subregion. UNFPA finances eight such field offices strategically spread out over the world.

21. General monitoring and supervision of TCDC activities is provided by UNFPA's geographical divisions and its Technical and Evaluation Division, located at its headquarters in New York, supplemented by the technical support services established in a number of United Nations agencies such as WHO, ILO, UNESCO, FAO and in the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy

Analysis of the Secretariat. For more effective monitoring of TCDC activities, UNFPA has appointed since June 1994 a full-time senior programme officer for South-South cooperation, who is responsible for the formulation and monitoring of the new South-South programme in support of "center of excellence" activities, and at the same time is UNFPA's focal point for South-South activities. In addition, UNFPA also has nominated TCDC contact officers in each geographical division and in each branch of the Technical and Evaluation Division. Currently, UNFPA is in the process of devising ways and means for more effective recording of TCDC-related programmatic and financial information from UNFPA-assisted activities; this information needs in fact to be adequately incorporated in the UNFPA management information system database.

L. United Nations regional commissions

22. The promotion of ECDC/TCDC could be characterized as the raison d'être of the United Nations regional commissions, namely the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) also supports activities directed at promoting regional cooperation for development in Europe. Since their establishment, the regional commissions have shaped their structures in order to cope with the implementation of various action programmes adopted by their governing bodies. As will be seen in the following sections, the support of the regional commissions to ECDC/TCDC covers a wide range of activities including support to subregional/regional economic integration and to specific sectors such as trade, investment, agriculture and industry, transport and communications through studies, meetings, technical assistance, workshops, etc. in cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system.

II. SUPPORT TO SUBREGIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES AND ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING TRADE AND MONETARY AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

23. FAO's work on global and regional strategies and policies emphasizes production complementarities, trade possibilities and programmes and policies designed to overcome resource and institutional constraints and promote collective and regional self-reliance. FAO is cooperating with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the preparation of a common African agricultural programme which is to provide the basis for the preparation of a protocol on food and agriculture for the African Economic Community being established by OAU. FAO has also collaborated with the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) on subregional food security and related food information systems, harmonizing their action programmes and avoiding duplication.

24. In Asia and the Pacific, FAO activities in agribusiness policy and analysis have been organized jointly with the Agricultural Planning Development Centre of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and FAO maintains a constant dialogue with various committees/subgroups of ASEAN concerned with agriculture, livestock and fisheries. FAO has continuing ties with the South Pacific Commission, especially in the fields of pest control and forestry development.

25. In Latin America assistance was provided by FAO to the Common Market of the Southern Zone (MERCOSUR) for analysis of competitiveness, complementarity and cooperation projects in agricultural products with export potential. Also, an important regional food security project with activities at the national and regional levels is being implemented through the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).

B. International Trade Centre

26. ITC has traditionally supported the process of economic integration at the pan-African level, in particular through technical cooperation with OAU in the organization of the all-African trade fairs and other activities. ITC formulated detailed technical proposals for the establishment of a pan-African trade information system (PANAFTIS) and prepared a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of a pan-African company register at the request of the African Development Bank. Such a computerized facility would contain data of the most important economic operators in Africa and would assist the African Export/Import Bank in the effective execution of its trade financing and trade promotion functions. In addition, ITC is implementing a programme for the quantification and promotion of pan-African trading opportunities, in support of the establishment of the African Economic Community. The programme serves the dual purpose of assisting African enterprises in their intra-African trade development efforts, and of demonstrating the economic benefits of creating a regional African market. The ITC concept for the promotion of intra-African trade is based on the sequential undertaking of supply and demand analysis, enterprise selection and the organization of buyers/sellers meetings. Since 1987, 20 buyers/sellers meetings have been held on 17 product groups; a total of 800 buyers and sellers have participated, of whom over 10 per cent were women. (A regional programme of buyers/sellers meetings for women entrepreneurs and women in business in Africa has been developed and its implementation is contingent on securing financing.) These meetings have generated over US$ 230 million in new business transactions, clearly demonstrating the untapped potential of intraregional business opportunities. To give an example, the ITC-organized pan-African meeting of manufacturers and buyers of medical supplies and hospital equipment in Nairobi (December 1993) initiated significant new trade and contributed to the development of business relations among African traders, manufacturers and investors. Similarly, numerous high-level workshops and expert group meetings have led to better exchanges of experience in trade promotion among participating developing countries.

27. At the subregional level in Africa ITC completed in 1993 the initial phase of an integrated programme for countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which aimed at supporting the process of economic

cooperation and integration in West Africa through the development of a subregional market. The main element of the project regarding "promotion of commerce-oriented production and trade development in ECOWAS" was the systematic undertaking of supply and demand surveys for products identified as representing attractive intra-ECOWAS trading opportunities. The project, financed by the Government of Italy, carried out 36 surveys on sawn timber, veneer and plywood, paper and paper products and manufactured fertilizers; organized buyers/sellers meetings on these product groups and undertook specific follow-up activities; systematically collected information on products, companies and markets to form the basis for the future ECOWAS Trade Information Network; and published handbooks on the legal, financial and economic framework for intra-ECOWAS trade for a number of member States. In 1994, a programming mission was undertaken to the countries of the subregion for the formulation of a follow-up phase. Similarly, another programming mission was undertaken to the countries of the Central African subregion with a view to assessing the scope for fostering regional cooperation through trade and production development in the subregion within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). It is anticipated that a technical cooperation programme for this purpose will become operational in 1995.

28. In mid-1993, ITC embarked on a new phase of technical cooperation with PTA (now the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)) under a four-year project on "trade development and promotion programme in the PTA". It provides for an expansion of the PTA Trade Information Network (TINET) to incorporate chambers of commerce and other business representative organizations. In 1993, 10 business-sector organizations in eight PTA countries were provided with equipment, computer software and data; the information officers of these organizations were trained in TINET operations. The programme also addresses issues of product and market development through supply and demand surveys, buyers/sellers meetings and direct support to selected PTA enterprises. In 1994, the first buyers/sellers meeting for women in business was organized, support was provided to the organization of the Fifth PTA Trade Fair and to the launching of the Eastern and Southern Africa Business Organization (ESABO). The programme will, moreover, assist the PTA Bank in introducing appropriate export financial services to member States, in particular for financing of intra-PTA trade. The programme is funded by UNDP, with cost-sharing contributions from the Governments of Belgium and the Netherlands. In addition, under a UNDP-financed joint pilot project of UNCTAD and ITC called "TRAINFORTRADE", ITC organized two workshops on "How to do business in the PTA", in cooperation with the PTA secretariat and the Eastern and Southern Africa Trade Promotion and Training Centre. The first workshop was attended by PTA business operators and the second one by trainers from selected institutions of the PTA member States.

29. ITC has been cooperating with SADC since its inception and has followed closely its programmes in relation to industry and trade development designed to achieve a harmonious development of the SADC member States. In this context, through projects entitled "direct assistance in packaging to selected enterprises in SADC member States" and "development of effective quality-control standards and testing services for export products and packaging in SADC member States", financed by the Governments of Finland and Italy respectively, ITC has assisted at two specific levels: (i) to provide direct technical advice and

guidance to packaging manufacturers to assist them to better serve the export sector; and (ii) to help establish national standards bureaux in those countries of the SADC subregion which do not yet have such services. The programme of assistance in export packaging and quality control terminated at the end of March 1994.

30. In the Arab region in 1992 and 1993, ITC implemented a project of technical cooperation on "establishment of systems and procedures for financing intra-Arab trade" in collaboration with the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP). This project aimed at contributing to the establishment of an Intra-Arab Trade Information Network (IATIN) at ATFP headquarters in Abu Dhabi, under cost-sharing between UNDP and ATFP. Phases I and II were successfully completed in 1994 and resulted in the setting up of the central core of IATIN at ARFP headquarters. Phase III of the project has recently been approved by UNDP and ATFP and work on the development of a regional network covering all Arab States is scheduled to start soon. This will be carried out by ATFP in cooperation with ITC as part of a 1995-1997 regional programme of technical cooperation activities supported by UNDP and ATFP on a cost-sharing basis. IATIN is expected to provide Arab business enterprises and their trading partners in other countries with relevant trade, economic and financial information thus promoting the development of trade and accelerating the Arab market integration process.

31. In Latin America and the Caribbean, ITC undertook in 1993 a programming mission to the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) in Guatemala, at the latter's request, with a view to determining possible support for fostering regional cooperation through trade promotion and export development among member countries. A project profile was formulated and sources of financing are now being sought. In addition, between July 1990 and October 1994, ITC implemented a project on "export promotion and development assistance to selected enterprises exporting wood manufactures from Bolivia". Among its objectives, the project aimed at the increase of trade (in wood manufactures) between Bolivia and neighbouring regional markets, by fostering industrial and marketing cooperation and complementarity. For this purpose field supply/demand surveys were conducted in 1990 in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The approach adopted was to concentrate on areas with natural trade prospects due to their geographic location and better communications and transport. The surveys and contacts established paved the way for trade missions carried out by enterprises between 1991 and 1992; besides opening new relations, these contacts contributed to the finalization of an agreement on industrial cooperation and marketing complementarity between Bolivian and Uruguayan wood manufacturing enterprises. The experience of the project in Bolivia, which attained the objective of an export increase of over 15 per cent starting in 1993, obtained through a rationalization of the production chain and a stronger export reorientation of the sector, generated interest in the region. Several information workshops were organized in Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay and Ecuador, the latter two as TCDC activities financed by the Chambers of Industry and LAIA respectively.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

32. In addition to a number of activities undertaken jointly with other United Nations organizations (see the discussion under UNDP, for example), UNCTAD delivers assistance supporting subregional and regional integration and interregional cooperation for the development of trade in particular. With respect to economic integration UNCTAD is assisting SADC in designing a trade cooperation programme and, in particular, the drafting of a trade cooperation protocol to the SADC treaty. A first reading of the draft protocol was undertaken by the SADC Council of Ministers. As part of a programme of assistance to the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), UNCTAD finalized a study on mechanisms of compensation of losses resulting from the application of the tariff and trade convention of UMA. UNCTAD continued providing technical support towards the implementation of the Central American Integration System (SICA), particularly with respect to the participation of the private sector in the integration process. UNCTAD provides advisory services (including participation in a technical capacity at meetings), upon request, to many subregional and regional organizations of developing countries such as ASEAN, Bangkok Agreement, COMESA, OAU, SADC and SICA.

33. With respect to South-South trade the second round of negotiations under the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries (GSTP) which was launched in November 1991 has entered into an active phase. Negotiations among participating countries are continuing in all areas for which negotiating groups have been established: facilitation of access, product-by-product negotiations, across-the-board tariff negotiations, direct trade measures, and non-tariff and sectoral agreements. The servicing of negotiations and technical assistance were provided through the GSTP project located in and supported by UNCTAD.

34. UNCTAD also supports the promotion of services relating to trade development in the following sectors:

(a) Ports:

(i) Training in a subregion with limited populations in each port can be centralized in one port which would benefit all ports. Training courses can be developed and delivered centrally or instructors from the centre can travel to ports in the region to deliver courses. UNCTAD has been actively promoting this concept through the development of national and subregional training capacity with its TRAINMAR programme; regional TRAINMAR centres exist in Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, Guadeloupe, Uruguay, Malaysia and Morocco with additional centres planned for Peru, Fiji and Viet Nam;

(ii) A recent UNDP/UNCTAD port management rehabilitation project for Somalia provided for a team of mangers from Indian ports to be involved in the running and management of the ports of Mogadishu and Kismayu. This is an example whereby port organizations could set up a roster of experts that could be utilized on a cost-plus basis by others, for example the United Nations or commercial parties, for managing other ports. This expertise, which is well aware of

conditions in developing countries, could cover, for instance, cargo handling, equipment management, environmental protection, liability questions, cost accounting, port statistics and port pricing;

(b) Maritime transport. In connection with the formulation and implementation of programmes under the Transport and Communications Decades UNCTAD, in collaboration with the regional commissions concerned, has been actively involved in formulating objectives and strategies of programmes on maritime transport for the execution of specific projects under regional action programmes for the Decades.

35. UNCTAD has long supported efforts aimed at strengthening monetary and financial cooperation. For example, assistance is provided to multilateral clearing and payments arrangements of developing countries. Thus, the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) was assisted in the preparation of a study dealing with the prospects of broadening, deepening and diversifying the ACU's functions in the light of current and prospective changes in the economies of the members and the global economy. The paper, entitled "The ACU: an Assessment and Prospects", was presented to the twenty-second annual meeting of the Board of Directors in Yangon (August 1994). At the request of the West African Clearing House (WACH), a technical paper on the conversion of the WACH into the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) is being prepared by UNCTAD. In its capacity as the technical secretariat for the Coordination Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Cooperation among Developing Countries, UNCTAD provided technical support for its eighth session held in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, from 28 February to 1 March 1994. UNCTAD also provided assistance to the second Conference of Governors and Senior Officials of Central Banks of Latin American and African Countries which took place from 2 to 3 March 1994, and to the meeting of the Follow-up Committee of this Conference held on 3 October 1994 in Madrid.

36. In response to emerging needs and requests, UNCTAD is undertaking analytical studies on the development of regional capital markets and trade-financing facilities of developing countries.

37. Since 1975 UNCTAD has provided technical support to the Group of 24, mostly in the form of research papers on issues under discussion and negotiation at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The purpose of the projects, which have been financed by UNDP and by a number of Governments, has been to assist developing countries to strengthen their technical preparedness and ability to participate in and contribute to all phases of discussion and negotiation within the framework of the Fund and the Bank. A five-volume set of these research studies was published (by North Holland Publishers) between 1987 and 1989. Six new volumes have been published since 1990 (by the United Nations) and a seventh is under preparation. The proceedings of a major conference (April 1994) organized by the G-24 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bretton Woods conference was published as Volume IV (special issues) of International Monetary and Financial Issues for the 1990s. The emphasis of current research activities is on the new implications of the integration of developing countries into the international financial system, including the effects of the macroeconomic policies of the major industrial countries.

D. United Nations Development Programme

38. In respect of global cooperation initiatives, UNDP (Special Unit on TCDC) has supported activities aimed at arriving at solutions for dealing with common problems faced by the developing countries by way of the preparation of case-studies, subject-specific workshops, joint negotiations strategies and collaborative research. These activities have proved to be a very efficient method of dealing with common problems through the exchange of relevant experience and appropriate technology. For example, UNDP supported efforts to bring developing countries and countries in transition together to exchange views and experiences and, on this basis, to identify replicable practices pertaining to: (i) management of aid between Arab-African countries (workshop in Jordan, January 1994), Latin American countries and between Eastern European countries (workshop in Turkey, October 1994); (ii) management of foreign ministries for countries in Eastern European and the Commonwealth of Independent States together with Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and Malta (June 1993), resulting in the setting up of a programme for diplomatic training; (iii) identification of innovative approaches for tackling poverty; and (iv) collaborative programmes on economic reforms such as privatization (TCDC workshops held in Ethiopia and Poland), macroeconomic issues in transitional economies (symposium in China), external debt management (swap arrangement discussion in Honduras), policy issues related to structural adjustment (African case-studies and Cotonou workshop).

39. UNDP is also implementing technical assistance programmes directed at assisting developing countries in addressing common problems. For example, UNDP is assisting in the implementation of the programme of action adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries (Barbados, April-May 1994). It is, moreover, involved in promoting technical cooperation between African and Asian countries as a follow-up to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. A seminar was held in Indonesia (December 1994) which identified concrete opportunities for Asian-African cooperation in such areas as improved agricultural productivity, human capital formation and institutional development.

40. In addition, in South-East Asia UNDP is backing the two important joint initiatives for evolving common solutions. The first one, a collaborative effort in respect of the Tumen River Basin, brings together five countries in a shared strategy for the development of areas in North-East Asia along the Tumen River. The programme provides a forum for discussion and agreement on a set of legal and institutional arrangements between China, the Democratic People's Republic and the Republic of Korea, Russia and Mongolia. A programme management committee was established in July 1994 and agreements are being worked out to set up a consultative commission, a coordinating committee and a secretariat. UNDP serves as a neutral chair for the negotiations. The preparation of investment profiles, pre-feasibility studies, an environmental policy, resource mobilization strategies and border and customs procedures is envisaged in the future. The second is the Mekong Committee, which manages the Mekong River Basin water resources. Despite the conflicts in the subregion, the Committee has functioned successfully and a new comprehensive agreement was signed in 1994. UNDP has been providing the executive agent for the Committee and in the past 37 years has provided $45 million in assistance which has resulted in an

investment of approximately $600 million. Some of the innovative activities carried out under the programme include: (i) work on a natural resource accounting system for the planning of the utilization of water resources; (ii) preparations for setting up a sustainable development network for the river basin; and (iii) a scheme for future self-financing of the core functions of the Mekong secretariat.

41. In respect of subregional and regional cooperation UNDP's regional programmes, in cooperation with regional institutions in the various regions, have undertaken activities in support of ECDC/TCDC. In some cases regional institutions, including regional commissions, have received financial support from UNDP in carrying out their activities and, in many cases, act as executing agents.

(a) The Regional Directorate for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is supporting initiatives in regional trade promotion. The programme for the development of trade in the CIS and Baltic States, for example, involves four United Nations organizations: UNCTAD, ITC, ECE and UNDP. The objective of the programme is to expand trade within the region and to strengthen the external trade of these countries. The programme was launched with a regional workshop in the Republic of Moldova in January 1994;

(b) The Regional Bureau for Africa has supported initiatives relating to the establishment of the African Economic Community. New initiatives include the establishment of mechanisms for intra-African trade promotion, including trade and investment information systems, and regional and subregional trade organizations, including business associations and clearing houses. One of the major programmes supported by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean deals with trade policy and preparations for multilateral trade negotiations. The programme, which was launched in August 1993, supports studies, training programmes, setting of standards, quality control mechanisms and finalization of negotiating briefs. These activities involve government trade negotiators and legislators, as well as private sector representatives and others interested in foreign trade. This is a collaborative effort of UNCTAD, ECLAC, UNDP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA);

(c) One of the three thematic programmes under the regional IPF (indicative planning figures) and the Regional Bureau for Arab States is economic integration and trade. A number of activities are being supported under this programme including support for the setting up of a trade information network by the Arab Trade Financing Programme (also discussed under ITC); support for a symposium in Abu Dhabi (April 1993); follow-up action on economic and trade integration which is proceeding with support from the regional programme and also involves UNCTAD, ITC and the Department of Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat; and capacity-building in the secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union;

(d) The Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific has supported a large programme on international trade and investment in which all United Nations organizations are participants. This programme has carried out a number of activities relating to standardization, market exploration, training,

harmonization of practices and the preparation of negotiating positions in respect of the promotion of integration arrangements. Two other major initiatives relate to trade cooperation in ASEAN countries and the expansion of trade and investment in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

E. United Nations regional commissions

Economic Commission for Africa

42. The ECA has been providing continuous assistance to most of the African subregional economic integration groupings, in terms of institutional support, formulation of policies and strategies and their implementation, preparation of projects for resource mobilization, undertaking of studies, organization of meetings/workshops and provision of a wide range of advisory services. In support of its subregional efforts, ECA has decentralized staff to Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) in five subregions. ECA's activities have been implemented jointly with other United Nations agencies such as UNDP and with bilateral donor countries.

43. Since the inception of the UNDP-financed ECA-executed project entitled "Multisectoral assistance to ECCAS" in 1989 and until its termination in 1993, several master plans and programmes were delivered to ECCAS member States. These included a food security programme; interconnection of roads and telecommunications networks; sectoral industrial master plans for the development of steel, petrochemicals and forest-based activities; and provision of machinery and hand tools. In the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), the ECA secretariat, through its MULPOC in Gisenyi, Rwanda, embarked upon a comprehensive programme of economic cooperation and integration among member States which achieved some success in the areas of energy, agronomic research and transport. ECA's assistance to ECOWAS spans 20 years. The results achieved by the ECA-implemented UNDP-financed project "Multisectoral assistance project to ECOWAS (RAF/88/047)" include: (i) an industrial master plan for West Africa; (ii) a food security programme; and (iii) a monetary integration scheme and a trade liberalization scheme. It is expected that the recommendations of the study on rationalization of the West African intergovernmental organizations produced in 1994 will be considered by member States and the organizations themselves. ECA has been assisting COMESA and SADC to intensify their subregional cooperation and integration. In order to help these institutions coordinate, harmonize and rationalize their activities, ECA has already initiated consultations with the secretariats of COMESA and SADC in order to organize a joint special summit on its issue.

44. ECA and OAU have been working closely to promote economic cooperation, and integration of African countries. The signing of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community can be seen as a culmination of these joint efforts. A joint secretariat has been established among OAU, ECA and ADB to play a key role in the implementation of the Treaty which came into full force in June 1994 after its ratification by two thirds of the signatory countries.

45. The South-South cooperation in the field of transport and communications among the countries of Africa has been carried out under the umbrella of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II). In general, the accent of the programmes of UNTACDA II is on implementation of subregional and regional projects. Two important regional projects are presently under way: the development of a regional transport database, and human resources and institutional development in African transport and communications. ECA actively provided technical support to various regional and subregional transport and communications organizations, dealing with individual modes. These are the Pan-African Telecommunication Union in telecommunications, the Pan-African Postal Union in postal services, ports and maritime agencies, the Ministerial Conference of West and Central African countries in maritime transport (MINCONMAR) the African Civil Aviation Council in civil aviation, the Union of African Railways in railways, etc. In shipping, an ongoing project on development of coastal shipping among the States of West/Central Africa involves ECCAS and ECOWAS and is sponsored by ECA. ECA is also cooperating with UAR and National Railways Authorities with a view to restructuring African railways, including rehabilitation and modernization of railways, rolling stock, equipment, telecommunications and signalling, human resources development, exchange of information, studies, equipment and spare parts.

46. With regard to cooperation among the developing regions, in 1989 ECA, together with ESCAP, organized a joint seminar on port organization and management in Leningrad, Russia, funded by the former Soviet Union through UNDP. In 1994 ECA was represented at the Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

47. In general ECLAC's activities to support and promote ECDC/TCDC are implemented through specific technical assistance projects, a few examples of which are given below.

48. In the area of financial, investment and enterprise cooperation, ECLAC participates with UNDP (project RAL/89/001) in the implementation of a regional programme with regard to the supply and production of capital goods. The project aims at strengthening the cooperation of economic agents in technological management, marketing and quality control. Activities include the establishment of national coordination centres for the supply and production of capital goods; evaluation of self-sustained operation of the information networks; publication of a catalogue on the production capabilities of LAIA members; and analysis of the procedures and conditions of bidding in the region. Within the framework of the programme of technical cooperation financed by IDB, ECLAC and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning undertook to encourage exchange of regional experiences on investment opportunities. Under the project "Strategy of investment programmes in Central America", ECLAC, in collaboration with IDB and the Central American Economic Integration Bank, carried out activities aimed at supporting cooperation in the field of investment in the production of edible oils and fats. ECLAC also completed a project designed to promote closer ties among Central American federations of savings and loan cooperatives.

49. In the area of infrastructure, ECLAC carried out projects on planning and management of water resources in the Andean region; economic cooperation among Latin American countries in the establishment of inland freight terminals; and development of urban planning in selected countries.

50. With regard to information, ECLAC, in collaboration with UNESCO, completed the formulation of a regional information programme to strengthen cooperation among national information networks and systems for development in the region. ECLAC also carried out projects to support networks for cooperation in the field of information in the Caribbean countries.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

51. TCDC activities implemented by ESCAP in recent years involve effecting transfer and exchange of equipment and technology, experience, expertise, information, etc. and cover a wide range of subject areas within ESCAP's programme of work, including: development research and policy analysis; environment and natural resources management; industry and technology; international trade and economic cooperation including transnational corporations; population; rural and urban development; social development; statistics and transport; communications and tourism. It is generally accepted that such sharing of experience and expertise among the developing countries using the TCDC modality often develop into ECDC arrangements, which comprise practical and collective economic actions among developing countries, requiring for the most part capital investment and/or major joint ventures.

52. Through relatively modest funding support, from January 1993 to January 1994, 33 operational TCDC activities were financed by the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund; of those activities, 25 were implemented specifically for the benefit of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition. In each of these activities, the fund financed the cost of international travel, while the local costs were borne either by the host Government and/or institution or were financed from other sources, such as the UNDP country IPFs. The primary objective of the ESCAP fund was to facilitate the representation and participation of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition in various seminars, study visits, training workshops and bilateral and multilateral exchanges of experience organized by Governments and institutions, including NGOs, of the developing countries in the ESCAP region. The fund's operations were made possible through generous financial contributions from donors including the Governments of China, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea. Together they contributed US$ 170,000 in 1993. 1/

53. Under the Thematic Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, ESCAP has been implementing the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, which was adopted by the Commission in 1993. Under the terms of the Action Programme, particular emphasis has been accorded to the study and analysis of regional and subregional trade flows, strengthening of the regional trade information network, networking of trade-related research institutions, review of sectoral foreign direct investment inflows and policies, establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service,

regional commodity problems, environmental issues related to trade and investment, and cooperation between subregions. The Action Programme also addresses the role of regional cooperation in stimulating the development of small and medium export-oriented enterprises and the integration of its new members, especially the Central Asian republics, into the region. Since trade and investment is the core of all integration initiatives, the activities of ESCAP also encompass the organization of trade fairs, publication and dissemination of trade manuals, and issues relating to agricultural commodities of importance in the region's trade. ESCAP is, moreover, pursuing activities in support of harmonization of foreign direct investment policies within subregions.

54. For example, ESCAP prepared a macro-study which focuses on disaggregated information on trade flows in the region and the analysis of macroeconomic policies for increasing productivity. The lack of such data and information had impeded analytical work on intraregional trade expansion in the past. With regard to exchange of trade information among countries of the region, the secretariat is seeking to enhance the usefulness of the Regional Trade Information Network of ESCAP through the introduction of the Electronic Data Interchange. The Action Plan places emphasis on greater interaction between private sectors, the national chambers of commerce and industry and trade-related institutions. The secretariat has initiated activities to pursue these objectives which would provide further impetus to promoting ECDC. In fact, in the planned activities for the trade-related research institutions network, special focus is being given to promotion of intraregional trade and investment.

55. With regard to promotion and assistance of existing ECDC networks and other cooperative arrangements, ESCAP has established and supported several arrangements in the fields of preferential tariff agreements, clearing and reinsurance arrangements and commodity forums among the developing countries. These include the Bangkok Agreement, the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation as well as four commodities arrangements regarding coffee, jute, silk and tropical timber. In respect of the commodity arrangements, a number of technical assistance programmes have been developed and implemented by ESCAP as follow-up to the recommendations made by the intergovernmental bodies with the assistance of extrabudgetary funding from donor countries.

56. In addition, ESCAP is fostering dialogues between various subregional organizations in Asia and the Pacific with a view to promoting greater inter-subregional cooperation by identifying the complementarities among them and encouraging exchange and mutual assistance in various fields. As part of this process memorandums of understanding (MOU) have been signed between ESCAP and the following: Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) (July 1993), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (February 1994), South Pacific Forum (SPF) (May 1994), South Pacific Commission (SPC) (December 1994). A similar agreement is being proposed to ASEAN. Through the MOU, ESCAP and the integration institution concerned agree to cooperate and collaborate, to the extent possible, on development issues and concerns of mutual interest. Furthermore, a consultative meeting between the executive heads of the secretariats of the four major subregional organizations, ECO, SAARC and SPF was

held at Bangkok (February 1994), at the initiative of ESCAP. The meeting was beneficial and fruitful in fostering free-flowing discussions on the ways and means of strengthening substantive cooperation between ESCAP and the subregional organizations on the basis of their relative expertise and interests. It is envisaged that this meeting could become a regular event. Thus, the ASEAN secretariat hosted the second meeting at Jakarta, in January 1995, with the executive heads of ESCAP, ASEAN, SAARC, ECO, SPC and SPF present. A third meeting will be hosted by the ECO secretariat, tentatively in May 1996.

57. The role of transport and communications in promoting ECDC is self-evident. Modernization and upgrading of the region's transport and communications infrastructure is the primary objective under the Regional Action Programme for Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communication Decade for Asia and the Pacific. 2/ It may be noted that as recommended by the Intergovernmental Meeting of Highway and Railway Officials (December 1991), ESCAP at its forty-eighth session in April 1992 endorsed as a priority a special integrated project on Asian land transport infrastructure development comprising the Asian highway, the trans-Asian railway and facilitation of land transport. ESCAP continues its efforts to implement the project. Moreover, ESCAP's efforts at assisting the land-locked and in transition developing countries to overcome some of the constraints arising out of their geographical handicap have been focused mainly on the fields of land transport, transit arrangements, environment and natural resources management, technological development and trade promotion.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

58. ESCWA has been working to strengthen its role in technical cooperation at the regional level by improving regional advisory services and intensifying attempts to secure more funds for technical cooperation projects. It has carried out numerous activities to strengthen collective efforts at the regional and interregional levels. In general these activities have taken the form of preparation of technical studies; implementation of technical cooperation projects; convening of meetings of experts, seminars and training workshops; and participating in intergovernmental meetings. These activities are often implemented jointly with other United Nations agencies/organizations, donor countries and/or other organizations such as the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Outreach Consultation Project at the University of Jordan and the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).

59. These activities are being implemented in the following sectors: (i) energy (a study was prepared on the prospects for regional cooperation in solar energy and presented to the Fifth Arab Energy Conference (Cairo, May 1994)); (ii) water resources development and management (ESCWA has convened a number of meetings on this issue and the Commission is implementing several projects including one financed jointly with UNEP on the assessment of water resources in the ESCWA region using remote-sensing techniques and another supported by the Government of Germany; (iii) sustainable development activities relating to combating desertification and establishing environmentally sustainable settlements and to the management and sustainable development of drylands in the Arab region; (iv) industrial development activities regarding software industry activities, assistance to countries in diagnosing and alleviating problems facing existing industries, upgrading entrepreneurial

skills of managers, implementation of a project with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization on the establishment of engineering infrastructure in Arab countries, and participating (as associated agency) with UNDP and the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People in implementing the "Start your own business" training programme; (v) science, technology and education activities; transport, such as following up on the implementation in the region of Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific; social development such as the implementation of a project to produce the Arab Declaration for Social Development to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), implementation of a UNDP-funded project called "The autonomous village" that promotes appropriate techniques for building houses, local community development, promotion of activities on the role of women in development; and implementation of projects in the sector of statistics.

60. ESCWA cooperates with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the League of Arab States (LAS) in implementing a number of activities. For example, ESCWA and OIC in December 1994 signed a memorandum of understanding on water resources development and management and ESCWA cooperates with LAS and its subsidiary bodies (the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE), for example) in the coordination, promotion and selection of activities for joint implementation of sustainable development projects in the Arab region (such as those relating to the regional priorities of Agenda 21).

F. World Bank

61. The World Bank actively encourages trade, including through financing mechanisms. Although the Bank does not fund regional projects directly, it has been actively involved in MERCOSUR and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with Colombia and Venezuela, and other initiatives. The Bank has lent in fiscal year 1994 $20 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and $11 million from the International Development Association (IDA) to the Caribbean Regional Bank for on-lending to countries in the Caribbean. The Bank also has seconded staff to SADC in support of its regional efforts on transportation and other cooperative efforts for the southern African region.

62. In its publication Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits (World Bank, 1992), the World Bank provides guidelines for procurement that may support South-South cooperation within the context of international competitive bidding. Regarding domestic and regional preferences, at the request of the borrowing country and under conditions to be agreed with the Bank and set forth in the bidding documents, a margin of preference may be accepted under international competitive bidding for: (i) goods manufactured in the borrowing country when comparing domestic bids with those from foreign manufacturers; (ii) goods manufactured in other member countries which have joined with the borrowing country in a regional preferential tariff agreement among developing countries designed to foster their economic integration by a customs union or free trade area, when comparing bids from such manufacturers with other foreign bids; and (iii) civil works, in member countries below a specified level of GNP per capita, when comparing bids from eligible domestic contractors with those from foreign contractors. In 1994, 46 per cent of the

value of and 65 per cent of the number of the contracts for consultant services were disbursed to developing country firms.

III. SUPPORT TO ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY COOPERATION

A. International Trade Centre

63. The ITC programme in support of South-South cooperation is, by definition, enterprise centred. Following the systematic identification of trading opportunities in the subregional, regional and interregional contexts, enterprises in different developing countries are stimulated to establish business relationships and are assisted in doing so through buyers/sellers meetings. As these initiatives are frequently product- and sector-specific, they also make an important contribution to South-South cooperation at the industry level. Business sector organizations such as chambers of commerce and industry and manufacturers' associations are provided with trade development tools and assisted in South-South networking, in particular through trade information systems. Examples are the COMESA Trade Information Network (TINET), the ECOWAS Trade Opportunities Information System (TOPS) and the Intra-Arab Trade Information Network (IATIN). Trade support services aimed at improving enterprises' trading performance in such areas as quality management and packaging have been provided particularly at the subregional level.

64. In view of the importance trade fairs can play in the development and strengthening of economic trade and investment activities, ITC has traditionally supported the all-African trade fairs and participated in the first Afro-Arab trade fair (Tunis, 1993). Equally, ITC contributed to a round-table discussion held in connection with the first Afro-Arab business week (Cairo, March 1995). Moreover, several activities were carried out in the context of improvement of logistics management at the enterprise and institutional level in intra-Latin American trade within regional projects on improvement in the management of international physical distribution strategies at the enterprise level during the period 1989-1992, and efficient management of international trade logistics in Latin American foreign trade transactions since 1993. The latter is an ongoing programme ending in 1996.

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

65. Within the overall context of support for increased South-South trade UNCTAD promotes cooperation among enterprises of developing countries and their associations (chambers of commerce and industry, trading enterprises) with a view to developing contacts, cooperation and business as well as stimulating joint investment. Thus, UNCTAD and Promociones Exteriores Canarias of Spain will jointly organize a forum in 1995 of African, Arab and Latin American trading enterprises to explore the possibilities of cooperation among these enterprises and provide an opportunity for them to enter into new trade relations. UNCTAD attended the first Afro-Arab trade fair (Tunis, 1993) and participated in a symposium on trade expansion between African and Arab countries as well as presented a paper on the subject. The second fair is scheduled to be held in South Africa (1995) and UNCTAD expects to make a similar

contribution. UNCTAD also organized jointly with OAU and LAS a symposium on economic cooperation and investment between African and Arab countries during the first Afro-Arab business week (March 1995), held in conjunction with the Cairo International Fair.

66. With assistance from UNCTAD a meeting of ministers of Latin American and Asian and Pacific developing countries will be organized in 1995 to provide a political framework for supporting efforts aimed at expanding trade and other economic relations between these countries, in particular through the involvement of enterprises. It is envisaged that prior to the interregional ministerial meeting, a meeting of ministers of Latin American countries will be organized to adopt a common policy on economic cooperation in the Pacific basin.

C. United Nations Development Programme

67. In the context of supporting bilateral economic and technical cooperation between enterprises of developing countries, UNDP assists developing countries in the organization of capacities and needs matching exercises (CNMs) at which bilateral agreements are reached on collaborative TCDC activities. A compendium of needs and capacities of one or several countries is prepared and exchanged between the participants. Country missions are sometimes undertaken for briefing and sensitization purposes and to promote agreements on needs and capacities. Finally, the participating countries gather for several days for comprehensive bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Several CNMs have been held with UNDP support since December 1993 in Africa (Uganda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe) and Asia (Bangladesh, Myanmar). Some of these TCDC activities have led to joint investments or twinning of institutions and enterprises as well as the establishment of networks and joint ventures. In addition, technology based on cooperation between enterprises has facilitated the exchange of experts, training, the convening of symposiums and workshops and the granting of awards. For example, cooperation in ethno-botany between Africa and Asia is supported by an award programme. A workshop on spare parts reconditioning held in Cuba in 1993 has resulted in the mounting of training courses in Venezuela, and agreements between enterprises in Brazil, Egypt, India, Mexico and Venezuela.

68. Since 1989 UNDP has supported an initiative of the Group of 77 for the establishment of a South chamber of commerce and industry. A recent Egyptian initiative on this subject is designed to set up an elaborate information network. With UNDP, regional centres have been established in Benin, Colombia and Pakistan. The broad objective of the programme is to contribute to the promotion of trade and investment and the establishment of an information network on trade opportunities and capacities of the developing countries (see also discussion under UNIDO). The development of skills for international trade negotiations and preparation of a master plan for South-South trade are also targeted. The long-term objective is the establishment of a comprehensive third world information network. Similarly, UNDP is also supporting an initiative for multi-sectoral cooperation and integration involving Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. A meeting of mayors held in the last quarter of 1993 launched a programme to set up an information network to promote collaboration mainly between private sector enterprises in trade as well as other sectors such as education, tourism, health and culture. Another noteworthy information-related

activity is the establishment of a regional subcontracting exchange system to promote economic integration and improved efficiency of small and medium industries in the Arab region.

69. In respect of investment promotion and consultation UNDP, in collaboration with UNIDO, held the first investment round table in central Asia (March 1994). At this round table, which was held in Uzbekistan, 14 countries participated and relations were established between a number of enterprises.

D. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

70. UNIDO's ECDC/TCDC programme for industrial development gave special attention to the development of interregional, regional and subregional programmes including continued collaboration with regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions. In 1993 several regional training programmes were implemented, including those provided by India to other Asian countries on environment-friendly pesticides; by the Philippines and the Republic of Korea on quality control in pesticides; and workshops in Malaysia on pesticide application technology and in the Republic of Korea on impurities in technical-grade pesticide materials. A seminar was organized on refractories production for the West African region in Ghana (Accra, October 1994) in order to promote development of the refractory industry based on abundant local materials and to foster subregional cooperation through establishment of a subregional information network. The regional cooperation programme for the industrial recovery of Latin America and the Caribbean included a number of activities such as: (i) a bio-technology programme whereby special assistance was offered to both the public and the private sectors for the industrial application of research outputs and assimilation of techniques and experiences achieved in industrialized countries; (ii) an agro-industries programme beginning with a subregional programme for the identification, development and promotion of fruit- and vegetable-processing industries; and (iii) a regional programme for industrial modernization of the capital goods sector in Latin America under which a techno-economic study to define specific areas of action was completed with participating research and development institutions.

71. One of the main comparative strengths of UNIDO is its wealth of information sources, networks and statistical data banks on all aspects of industrial development. Mention can be made of a number of recent and ongoing activities aimed at strengthening ECDC/TCDC-related aspects of information sources, including the assignment of the TCDC-INRES (Information Referral System) database to the industrial information section as a logical extension of its information work in support of South-South cooperation. In order to enhance the information flow within, to and from the African countries, including the possible establishment of national and subregional INTIB (Industrial and Technological Information Bank) networks with linkages to international information systems, a project is being implemented for the development of an INTIB industrial and technological information network for Africa. The project includes the preparation of an assessment report covering 10 African countries (Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) through its cooperation with the Solidarity and Assistance Fund for the Development of the West African Economic Community.

72. Great efforts have been made to ensure the maximum utilization of the relevant activities and services of UNIDO for the promotion of investment among developing countries, such as consultation meetings and investment forums. An investors' forum for Central Africa was held in Yaounde (November 1993) together with the European Union and the Centre for Development of Industry. Potential investors from the 11 ECCAS countries participated at the forum, giving it a very distinct ECDC/TCDC flavour. Bilateral discussions resulted in the conclusion of 3 preliminary agreements and 22 letters of intent, including cooperation agreements among developing countries. As a result of previous promotion activities in north-west China, Nepal and Viet Nam, several investment licences were issued and investment projects with high investment values started to become operational. For the third time, the Viet Nam programme was extended and the project budget increased accordingly with plans for an investment forum at Hanoi. It is worth noticing in this context that there is an increasing trend towards investment between developing countries and, in particular, in the east and south Asian regions. A workshop on country and investment project promotion was held in Dubai (November 1993) with more than 100 participants from 17 Arab countries to discuss the roles, functions, structure and work methods of investment promotion agencies in the region.

73. Renewed efforts were made by UNIDO to increase the utilization of experts, services and equipment from developing countries in UNIDO's technical cooperation projects in 1993. A total of 1,200 experts from developing countries were appointed, including 544 national experts, who represent 45.3 per cent of all experts appointed. Even though data for the year 1994 will only be available in 1995, it was determined that in the first ten months of the year a total of 734 experts from developing countries were recruited. In 1993, equipment and supplies totalling US$ 26.6 million were purchased for technical cooperation projects, of which US$ 5 million (19 per cent) were provided by developing countries. In the same year 239 new contracts for technical cooperation projects with a total value of US$ 12.8 million were awarded, of which US$ 5.4 million (42 per cent) were awarded to developing countries.

E. World Bank

74. The privatization of enterprise is often designed to make countries competitive in investment and trade activities. The World Bank is active in the area of private sector development, including through South-South cooperation. World Bank adjustment loans and credits help produce a competitive and attractive business environment as well as help reform in the financial sector. In addition, the Bank Group is supporting private investment activities estimated at $25 billion annually.

F. International Labour Organization

75. In the past ILO's global network of 14 regional centres and programmes in the fields of training, labour administration and employment was particularly successful in promoting genuine TCDC approaches that often benefited from contributions from the more advanced countries in the region, mostly through twinning and networking arrangements. The activities of some of these regional

centres/programmes have lately been taken over by 14 new multidisciplinary teams, located in the different developing regions, in the framework of a newly introduced policy of active partnership. It is expected that this new policy will progressively serve as a catalyst and enhance TCDC approaches in fields central to ILO's mandate. The geographic coverage of each multidisciplinary team is a subregion where the extent of "like-mindedness" between the countries is obviously higher.

76. In regions that have a tradition of TCDC - Latin America, for instance - the willingness and ability to share is more in evidence. In that region, training programmes in container operations and handling for port workers, for instance, have drawn upon the experiences and resources of the comparatively better-endowed countries in the region since 1986. Currently, 17 countries are involved. Such successful experiments along TCDC lines are currently being pursued in East Africa and the Asia and Pacific region as well.

77. In Africa, ILO implements a project which aims at strengthening management training institutions and associations, drawing heavily on the expertise available within the network of participating organizations. Twinning is at the heart of this system. Also, in cooperation with the West African Central Bank, an ILO-executed programme in the region promotes harmonized approaches to village banks through, inter alia, the creation of data banks and the use of experts from the same region. ILO was also active, initially, in the Asian and Pacific region and subsequently, on a global basis, in promoting, under its INTERCOOP programme, commercial exchanges, business partnerships and exchange of know-how among cooperatives in developing countries and their counterparts in developed ones. Another successful experiment, INTERMAN, ensures, on a global basis, transfer of experience in entrepreneurship and management development to countries and institutions that stand to benefit from it. Efforts by ILO in the same field led to the creation of the Pan African Productivity Association.

78. In the Asian and Pacific region, examples include the regional programme on the Asian network of human resource development planning institutes and the Asian networking of national institutes of labour studies. In both cases, the participating institutions meet part of the costs involved in mounting jointly agreed projects.

IV. SUPPORT TO FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

79. In respect of the promotion of food security, FAO has continued its collaboration with several groups of countries. In addition to IGADD, SADC and PTA, technical support was provided to the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) in the establishment of a regional unit for food security. FAO also provided assistance in the formulation of subregional food security programmes for ECOWAS, ECCAS and the Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC). These strategies aim at dissemination of research results for traditional agriculture and fisheries as a priority for achieving food security. In Latin America, 10 LAIA member countries and four Central American countries are being assisted in identification and

characterization of the population at risk of food insecurity, analysis of the main causes and problem-solving action. Three Latin American workshops on food security programming analysed methodological work in assisted countries and consolidated experiences in a methodological compendium. In Asia FAO cooperated with the Food Security Reserve Board of ASEAN in exchanging early-warning information, providing technical assistance in research and development and mobilizing international assistance. A recent joint activity resulted in the preparation of a project proposal on a comprehensive study of ASEAN food security. FAO continues to cooperate with ASEAN in the development of a policy-driven model to assess food security policy alternatives to attain short- and long-term food security objectives at the national and subregional levels. FAO also provided technical support to SAARC in establishing a food security reserve for use in emergencies. Again in the Asian and Pacific region FAO provides assistance to countries through regional and national projects to make food production safer for human health and the environment while ensuring yield increases through the implementation of integrated pest management.

80. In early 1995, FAO launched the Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-income Food-Deficit Countries which at present number 88, with an estimated total population of 3.5 billion. The main objective of the programme is to assist these countries, particularly those where the food security situation is becoming increasingly critical, to increase food production rapidly in order to stem the growing incidence of under-nutrition among their populations. TCDC will be a key instrument to achieve the objectives of the special programme. At the global level, this will involve the identification of successful technologies which can be transferred from one country to another with similar agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions, as well as making available the know-how and experience in the process of technological change itself. This will concern different categories of actors (such as high-level decision makers, extensionists, research workers, farmers' groups, NGOs, private sector groups) who could, through workshops, exchange visits, study tours and apprenticeship programmes for fellow farmers, cooperative managers and trainers, share their practical experiences and "success stories" and demonstrate concrete examples of management know-how, techniques and practices. Consultations with Governments have already started.

81. Activities for the development of agriculture generally that are delivered by FAO through TCDC/ECDC mechanisms cover agricultural trade, nutrition, fisheries and forestry. Regarding agricultural trade and commodities, FAO, in collaboration with subregional and regional organizations, supports numerous activities aimed at promoting economic cooperation in agricultural trade. Also, in this regard, following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (April 1994), which included agriculture for the first time in a substantive fashion, there has been a growing interest by developing countries in coming to grips with the changed international trading environment for agriculture and FAO has been developing a programme to respond to this need. Additionally, the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the intergovernmental commodity groups continue to provide forums for exchange of information, consensus-building on emerging problems and flexibility for remedial action. Often in collaboration with subregional and regional organizations, FAO supports numerous activities aimed at promoting economic cooperation in agricultural trade. Examples include an expert consultation and a study on the impact of

structural adjustment programmes on rice economies in selected countries in West Africa with a view to assisting the countries in assessing the future outlook of their rice industry.

82. Regarding nutrition, food quality control and food safety the harmonization of food quality control requirements and procedures is an important requisite for eliminating non-tariff barriers and promoting intra-regional and interregional food trade. For example, FAO supported a workshop for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on food additives and contaminants in which 55 professionals from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates participated. The workshop permitted those professionals to review the subregion's situation with regard to the control of food additives and contaminants and to define a common strategy and action plan to strengthen their capabilities and exchange information in this field. In Latin America, laboratories from 11 countries were assisted in a study on mycotoxin standards and food contamination monitoring and control. Assistance was given to MERCOSUR countries in setting up harmonized procedures for the registration of food and food industries, classification of food, standardization of priority commodities and harmonized procedures for the inspection/certification of products.

83. Concerning fisheries, FAO has been collaborating with developing countries in realizing the potential arising out of the new legal regime of the seas. Of particular relevance are activities in support of FAO's network of regional fishery bodies which provide a well-established mechanism for cooperation in fisheries research, management and development. The subcommittee on fish trade acts as a global consultative mechanism on international trade matters. It further aims at promoting collaboration among developing countries in improving their share of international trade in fish and fishery products. Also in respect of fish, the global fish marketing information system set up by FAO is a comprehensive network consisting of four regional fish marketing information and technical advisory services. These assist participating countries with international fish trade matters within and between regions. The system includes INFOFISH for Asia and the Pacific, INFORPESCA for Latin America and the Caribbean, INFOPECHE for Africa and INFOSAMAK for the Arab region. GLOBEFISH is another key element of the FAO fish marketing information system. It collects and regularly updates information on the medium and long-term outlook for fishery commodities and distributes and disseminates it among developing countries through the regional information services.

84. As concerns forestry, interregional and regional forestry projects of particular importance to ECDC/TCDC are being implemented by FAO in all developing regions. Examples are projects on forest industries, production and marketing of timber, wood-energy development, forest policy and planning, management of forest resources for environmental protection and arid zone sand dune stabilization. The tropical forests action programme promotes intercountry cooperation through the exchange of information and expertise for developing and strengthening national capacity to formulate and implement policies, strategies and action programmes.

85. Other activities with an ECDC/TCDC dimension are being pursued by FAO in various areas. One such area concerns cooperative research in food crops, plant protection and post-harvest losses, cooperation in animal health measures, and

plant and animal biotechnology. A second area is the development of a sound information base on the capacities and needs of the developing countries for systematic and well-organized TCDC programmes in the area of food and agriculture, such as assistance provided to member countries in the preparation of inventories in various fields (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) and in dissemination of related information. A third area relates to the use of institutions in the developing world for inter-country training of technicians, such as the use of institutions of the Republic of Korea in intercountry training in the fields of sericulture and tidal land reclamation. The project also typifies the cost-sharing concept of TCDC. The Government of the Republic of Korea covered all local costs including board, lodging and internal transport. FAO assisted with technical advice and covered international trade and essential equipment.

B. United Nations Development Programme

86. UNDP is also lending support to food security efforts. The Arab regional programme includes several activities relating to cooperative efforts in food production. The network for supplementary irrigation and improved water management at the farm level is aimed at enhancing collective research and extension capacity in five North African and four Middle Eastern Arab countries which are heavily dependent on irrigation. The programmes for the productivity increase of barley, pastures and sheep in Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic and the programme for the oilseeds crop in the Sudan, Somalia and Yemen are all directed at the promotion of collective measures for research and improvement in food production.

87. In Africa, a highly innovative TCDC activity is being supported by UNDP. The aim of food technology transfer and the promotion of private investment is to bring together entrepreneurs, researchers, financiers and policy-makers to transform research results into commercial ventures. An NGO in Kenya has prepared a source book of successful technologies which will be used to mobilize venture capital. The programme envisages the exhibition of consumer products, a workshop for entrepreneurs and researchers, and training sessions on intellectual property rights relating to joint ventures.

C. World Bank

88. The World Bank played an important and active role in coordinating food security needs in southern Africa during the period when the region was threatened by food scarcity because of the prolonged drought. The Bank worked closely with the various affected countries and with the United Nations agencies involved to monitor needs and support efforts to make food available in the appropriate areas. The parties which worked on this effort agree that serious shortages and possible famine were in great measure averted through such regional coordination.

V. SUPPORT TO COOPERATION IN CULTURE, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 3/

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

89. Technical workshops and group training, which are among the traditional modes of TCDC promotion, concentrate on dissemination of successful technologies. Examples of such technologies include fish smoking, low-cost meat preservation, rural household bio-gas, fertilizer block demonstration, small-scale cheese processing in mountainous areas and rural milk cooperatives. A TCDC workshop hosted by Senegal on simple and cost-effective methods of meat preservation and attended by participants from some 15 African countries typifies this approach and demonstrates the potential of learning from experiences.

90. FAO has, within its fields of competence, used networks to foster research and technical collaboration, upgrade national research capabilities and facilitate information exchange and transfer of technology. Networking takes various forms and approaches depending on the problems to be solved, the capacities of the institutions involved and the funding mechanisms. FAO has so far promoted over 140 networks in the developing regions of the world. Twinning arrangements between similar organizations and institutions are also promoted, where feasible, with a view to increasing their management capabilities, training their staff or improving their operational procedures. For example, the Asian Network on Forestry Education, the Asian-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions and the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa, the plant quarantine networks in southern and eastern Africa and the Latin American citrus network link renowned institutions in a collaborative framework, very much along the lines of the "South network of centres of excellence" recommended in the South Commission's report. The network approach employed by FAO reflects the conviction that TCDC initiatives should not only institute collections of ad hoc activities but should have a strong institutional framework, within which dialogue and cooperation among groups of institutions or countries can be carried out on a sustained and continuing basis.

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

91. In the field of technology, a workshop was held at New Delhi (November 1994) to address three main issues, namely (i) the increasing complexity and rising costs of research and development; (ii) the rapid obsolescence of technologies and of products; and (iii) the difficulties in blending technologies and start-up finance for ensuring sustained and sustainable economic growth and development. Senior executives coming from enterprises and from research and development organizations from 12 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam) met with policy makers in order to discuss the ways in which multi-enterprise and multi-country initiatives could help address these concerns. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of ESCAP, with UNCTAD and

UNDP, actively participated in all phases of preparation and the actual holding of the workshop. Subsequently, UNCTAD made available to APCTT a draft proposal concerning follow-up activities. University-industry relations have also been considered in the Latin American and Caribbean context.

C. United Nations Development Programme

92. Commercialization of the results of research and development is an issue receiving attention in many developing countries and TCDC is considered an appropriate modality for promoting this objective. The establishment of linkages between the scientific community and the private sector for the commercialization of research and development was the subject of an interregional gathering supported by UNDP in Argentina (March 1993). Similarly, in Africa another interesting initiative launched with the support of UNDP is inter-university collaboration in research on development policy. The programme was launched in July 1993 under the sponsorship of Addis Ababa University and will be completed by the end of this year. This is the first African initiative in this field and it is likely to generate ideas for solution of common problems as perceived by a group of collaborators from the South.

93. TCDC-INRES (information referral system) has been developed as a valuable resource on capacities in developing countries. A careful screening process has been followed in order to compile and update information from 31 countries. The coverage will be expanded at the rate of 20 countries each year. At the same time a system of continuous updating has been instituted. Also important is the ease of access that has been built into the data-processing technology. INRES-LITE will provide diskettes to UNDP country offices, national TCDC focal points and agency TCDC focal points in order to make the information readily available to end users. The other agencies, in turn, contribute to expanding and improving the information database. This will revolutionize the scope for South-South cooperation by making information more readily available at the national level.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

94. In the area of education UNESCO is implementing a comprehensive programme encompassing basic education, education innovation for development and higher education. Moreover, activities in the foregoing fields are executed at the regional level by the UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok.

95. In the field of basic education, particular attention is paid to a number of important issues such as: cost-effectiveness; education opportunities for girls and women and for other disadvantaged groups; improvement of relevance and quality of education and learning achievements; promotion of innovative approaches; linking school with community to obtain its support; and linking school with the world of work. In this spirit UNESCO attempts to develop international cooperation in education including both North-South and South-South cooperation. The programme "Education for all, making it work" is a

pragmatic and action-oriented strategy to support and promote innovations in basic education. The following are some illustrative examples of the innovations programme concerning South-South cooperation:

(a) Inter-project workshops and visits. The innovations programme organized four inter-project basic education workshops in 1994 in Bangladesh, China, Senegal and Zimbabwe. Besides being important platforms for the exchange of experiences from the grass-roots to ministries, another important function of the workshops and their follow-up is the establishment or reinvigoration of networks for educationists to enhance regional and subregional collaboration in the field. A UNDP-funded project is operated by UNESCO for and with NGOs, local education experts and government counterparts in the Asian region. A similar project in Africa, also funded by UNDP, is implemented by UNESCO-Harare for and with NGOs, local educationists and government counterparts from southern and eastern Africa;

(b) Innovations series. The programme aims to collect, analyse and promote successful basic education projects in the developing world. By October 1994 five issues had been published covering projects in Bangladesh, India, Mali and Trinidad and Tobago, and distributed widely to disseminate worthwhile basic education experiences from third world countries to a wide range of educationists, from decision makers/planners in ministries to grass-roots people, thus contributing to South-South dialogue.

96. The project "Education for all in the nine high population countries" includes Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan, which together account for over 70 per cent of the world's adult illiterates and more than half of the world's out-of-school children. Under this project, many activities took place such as the Education for All Summit (New Delhi, December 1993) and the meeting at Geneva of Ministers of Education as a follow-up to the Summit. Other activities are being implemented or elaborated such as the use of distance education to reach people living in remote areas.

97. UNESCO executes four regional programmes for renewal of primary education and elimination of illiteracy in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean that are mainly based on South-South cooperation in terms of substance and technical issues.

98. In the field of education innovation for development UNESCO has five networks of which four are concerned with developing regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean). South-South cooperation develops within the framework of these four regional networks, while interregional cooperation involves both North-South and South-South cooperation.

99. In the field of higher education, UNESCO launched in 1991 the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Cooperative Programme in Higher Education with the objective of promoting and strengthening inter-university cooperation. Although North-South linkages are given particular importance, South-South cooperation has been given a high priority within the framework of this programme. A number of UNITWIN networks have been already established. Among these, the following examples of inter-university networks involve cooperative and joint activities

undertaken by universities from the South: (i) UNAMAZ, a network in environmental studies involving 30 universities in the countries of the Amazon region; (ii) the Utrecht/Southern African University network, which links institutions in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia and focuses on health, environment, science and human rights; (iii) the PEACE programme network, which associates Palestinian and European universities of the Coimbra group; (iv) the UNESCO/NATURA network, linking agricultural universities in Europe and Africa; and (v) the UNITWIN project with the Santander group of universities which networks European and Latin American institutions and will include six UNESCO Chairs.

100. The activities executed at the regional level by the UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (PROAP) at Bangkok serve 40 member States. 4/ The national commissions of UNESCO in the member States themselves form a network of cooperation which is further supported by a number of networks of specialized educational institutions and several thousand key educators in Asia and the Pacific participating in South-South cooperation through a number of mechanisms. One is the Advisory Committee on Regional Cooperation in Education in Asia and the Pacific, set up by UNESCO in 1980 to provide advice, consultation and guidance to UNESCO on regional cooperation in education through the highest level of intellectual expertise available in the region in the field of education. The Committee has held several sessions. It also oversees the implementation of education projects and programmes based on North-South and South-South cooperation and makes recommendations to the periodic conferences of Ministers of Education and those responsible for economic planning in Asia and the Pacific.

101. Another mechanism is the Asia and the Pacific Programme of Education Innovation for Development, which encourages educational innovation in response to the felt needs and emerging priorities. Activities under this programme encompass all levels and forms of education from primary to tertiary as well as educational technology, distance learning, education and employment, science and technology education and environment education, to mention only the important ones.

102. A third mechanism is the Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All (APPEAL). 5/ APPEAL has been specially formulated by UNESCO on the recommendation of the Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education and those Responsible for Economic Planning and was launched in 1987. APPEAL is responsible for implementing activities generally to facilitate the achievement of "Education for All" and particularly to promote universal primary education, eradicate illiteracy and provide continuing education especially to adult illiterates and out-of-school children, with special provision for women and other disadvantaged groups. APPEAL is fully operational in 29 States of the region through national coordinating committees of APPEAL and a number of participating institutions. A regional coordinating mechanism of APPEAL has also been set up to promote South-South cooperation for improving the education and literacy in the region. For the first time since the beginning of 1994 the absolute number of adult illiterates in the region has started to decline as a result of sharing of knowledge between participating institutions.

103. A fourth mechanism is the Regional Cooperative Programme in Higher Education for Development. The programme, which became operational in 1982, was developed by PROAP. It succeeded in creating a network of 110 universities and other institutions of higher learning in 16 countries of the region. The basic aim is to improve the quality of higher education through training of higher education administrators and managers, curriculum planners and higher education management information systems specialists. UNESCO was also instrumental in the setting up of the Association of Asian Open Universities as well as the Distance Education Regional Resource Centre to promote the networking of institutions of higher education specializing in distance education programmes to improve the outreach of higher education programmes. UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Cooperative Programme has been launched in this region. Furthermore, PROAP cooperates extensively with ESCAP to strengthen regional cooperation in education.

104. A fifth mechanism is technical and vocational education. UNEVOC is the acronym for the new "international project on technical and vocational education" launched by UNESCO in 1992. In the Asian and Pacific region the project was successfully launched in 1993 and 15 key institutions of technical and vocational education are now participating in a collaborative exchange of ideas, experiences and studies on policy issues, strengthening international research and development capabilities, facilitating access to databases and promoting innovations in staff development. UNEVOC is basically a cooperative endeavour of the member States sharing a common need to further develop and improve their systems of technical and vocational education and training, taking due account of the changes in science and technology affecting the workplace. The most important objective of this project is to network technical and vocational education policy planners, teacher training and technical institutions, schools and students throughout each region as well as globally to assist in the sharing of experiences for the reform of technical and vocational education.

105. A sixth mechanism is educational planning and management, an area where PROAP has been active for over two decades in assisting member States in policy formulation and implementation of monitoring, particularly using educational management information systems. A network of about 60 institutions in 20 member States has been established under a regional programme of educational planning and management. In this area also PROAP cooperates with ESCAP in a regional project on resource development perspectives in education planning under the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resource Development, mainly in a South-South cooperation modality. This project alone has so far trained about 50 persons in two years. The network is assisting the member States in improving their planning for Education for All and its implementation and monitoring. A related field where PROAP has been active is education facilities development. The low-cost school building and furniture designed by PROAP have already been adopted/adapted by a number of countries in the region, with particular emphasis on the use of local materials. PROAP has also been active in the field of environment and population education and information for human development and has developed a regional conceptual framework for inter-agency cooperation (comprising different United Nations agencies/organizations and other regional and national institutions). The framework emphasizes cooperative development of project proposals for action and resource generation, narrowing the knowledge

gaps and devising strategies to do so through action focusing on South-South dialogue.

106. A seventh mechanism is the Asia-Pacific Information Network in Social Science (APINESS). APINESS was set up in 1986 with a view to providing national-level academic groups in the social sciences field appropriate, relevant and pertinent international as well as indigenous data, documentation and information, so that professionals in the field of social sciences may meaningfully contribute to national development. National social science councils and other academic organizations were encouraged to take action to create and strengthen infrastructures for social sciences information and documentation, essential for both research and teaching.

107. An eighth mechanism is the Association of Asian Social Science Councils Research (AASSREC). AASSREC was launched in 1973 and has at present a membership of 16 national councils. AASSREC's main tasks are to help develop national social sciences policies, to canvass support for the social sciences and the social scientists and to promote intra-regional cooperation. The most recent activities of AASSREC were: its tenth biennial conference, held at Kawasaki, Japan (September 1994), in conjunction with the AASSREC symposium on environment and sustainable development (September 1994) and a regional symposium on the new strategies for social development in Asia and the Pacific (Manila, November 1994) where social scientists discussed national papers highlighting specific national problems relating to social development, with a view to preparing a paper integrating issues on alleviating and reducing poverty, expanding productive employment and enhancing social integration. The paper constituted AASSREC's contribution to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995).

108. A ninth mechanism is the General Information Programme (PGI). In the context of improving the flow and use of information for development, PGI has for several years been implementing in the Asian and Pacific region two information networks, namely ASTINFO (Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experiences in Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific), with 18 countries in the region actively participating, and APINMAP (Asian Pacific Information Network for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants), with 14 participating countries. Participating countries are helping each other through TCDC and resource-sharing arrangements, promoted and catalysed by UNESCO/PGI and ASTINFO, specially among developing countries. For example, India has provided expertise to Nepal, Malaysia and Bangladesh and China has provided technical and financial assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia. Through ASTINFO and APINMAP, bilateral programmes of several participating countries have included information and library services as an area eligible for technical cooperation, bringing information closer to being included in the priority areas of national development programmes of developing countries in the region.

109. In the area of culture UNESCO executes activities through the South-South cooperation modality primarily in the fields of physical cultural heritage and books and reading. Examples of physical cultural heritage cooperation are not very frequent. However, developments are being noticed in this regard and it is

one of the objectives of several programmes and projects in UNESCO to develop and enhance regional cooperation.

110. In Africa the Niamey Regional Training Institute for Museology (Niger), created in 1986 under an international convention concerning the French-speaking countries, has functioned under the auspices of UNDP, UNESCO and the Agence de coopération culturelle et téchnique. The Institute has trained many museum technicians. Unfortunately, the training was interrupted due to funding difficulties; it is important to find new funding sources so that the Institute can resume its activities.

111. Among Arab States a very important project, in terms of regional cooperation, is being initiated in Tunisia at the National Institute for Cultural Heritage, where a special two-year course is open for architects from the countries of the Maghreb, who benefit from fellowships. In another activity UNESCO sent a legal consultant from Algeria to assist the Moroccan authorities in redrafting the legislation for the protection of cultural heritage.

112. In Asia regional cooperation is notably effective in South-East Asia where the Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts organizes training sessions, study tours and exchanges of experts and of information for member States. UNESCO collaborates regularly with this institution. Another important example of cooperation is the one which has been provided, on an exclusive bilateral basis, by India to Cambodia for the restoration of the temple of Angkor Wat.

113. In Latin America and the Caribbean within the overall UNDP/UNESCO project for cultural, urban and environmental heritage, cooperation has been developed among the countries of the region. The University of Bahia in Brazil has become a training institution for specialists in the field of architectural heritage, with the support of UNESCO. Also, expertise was provided to assist Mozambique under this project. The project of the National Centre for Conservation, Restoration and Museology at Havana, financed by UNDP and executed by UNESCO, has permitted notably the provision of technical assistance for the creation of the museum of Belize and for the preservation of immovable cultural property in the Dominican Republic. It should also be noted that within the context of the international safeguarding campaigns, financial assistance has been provided by South countries to other South countries, for example the United Republic of Tanzania to Yemen and Pakistan, Thailand and Nigeria to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to Mauritania. In the field of the intangible cultural heritage, a regional network of traditional musical institutions for Africa was established and the first coordination meeting was held at Niamey in December 1994. Similar networks will be created in the Latin American and Arab regions during the 1996-1997 biennium.

114. The promotion and development of South-South cooperation are key elements in the drafting and implementation of policies and programmes undertaken by UNESCO in the field of books and reading. This approach is also adopted by regional representatives in the allocation of the relevant decentralized funds. Within the framework of the various activities coordinated by UNESCO's programme for books and reading (namely those relating to national book policies, training, stimulating young people to read and the free flow of books), regional and national executing agencies are encouraged, whenever possible and

appropriate, to ensure a high level of involvement of partners from the South. The following presents and exemplifies a regional outline of initiatives involving South-South cooperation:

(a) The establishment of the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Programme in Reading Promotion and Book Development (APPREB), an information network to which 20 of UNESCO's member States have joined to date, has greatly enhanced UNESCO's capability to meet the challenge to promote meaningful exchanges among partners of the South. The activities of APPREB are coordinated through the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO which is based at Tokyo. A regional consultation with member States of the APPREB network will be held from 1 to 5 August 1995 at Bangkok to discuss the development and follow-up strategies of activities relating to South-South cooperation;

(b) The Regional Centre for Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC), UNESCO's regional coordinating partner in this area, has effectively carried out a number of activities which have involved the participation and input of the 15 States members of CERLALC in the region. Particularly noteworthy are the development of prototypes of national book policies, which have been successfully adopted by eight countries of the region, and the Acuerdo de Alcance Parcial, relating to the free flow of books. Based in Mexico, a unique and highly successful project entitled "Periolibros" aims to promote reading by utilizing local newspapers as the medium. The project, which continues to be financed largely by extrabudgetary contributions from Iberia Airlines, represents a creative and motivating approach to encouraging reading and the dissemination of information. In view of its success, the "Periolibros" model is in the process of being developed in the Arab States. Entitled "Al-Kitab al-Jarida", the project will avail itself of the experiences gained with "Periolibros" and aim to duplicate its success. Funds allocated for the development of "Al-Kitab al-Jarida" amounted to US$ 10,000 in 1994;

(c) Within the framework of the 1994-1995 "Reading for All" campaign for Africa, developed by UNESCO in order to respond to the challenge of encouraging reading and the promotion of books, the following South-South initiatives can be cited: (i) convening of a consultation of publishers and education specialists in Abidjan to develop practical and concrete steps to stimulate the book market in francophone Africa; and (ii) in anglophone Africa, significant partnerships have been developed with organizations that promote exchanges among and training for African publishers and stimulate the marketing of African books in the region and overseas. UNESCO's support to the African Publishers Network (APNET) and book marketing schemes such as the African Books Collective is expected to continue and possibly to grow into cooperative efforts which involve both French- and Portuguese-speaking partners. On the occasion of the 1995 Zimbabwe International Book Fair, UNESCO provided financial support to APNET for the organization of an international seminar "Books for the Millions" dealing with the social dimensions of human rights, including the right of access to affordable, locally produced books and to development of a national publishing industry.

115. In respect of communication UNESCO has consistently contributed to the reinforcement of regional communication institutions, including those for broadcasting, research, training, audio-visual production and news agency

exchanges. Through these institutions, UNESCO has developed a wide network of experts and consultants from the developing countries and these have served in most UNESCO-initiated programmes and activities. Only for highly technical advice (design of computer networks or major communication development planning or high-level policy missions) are consultants recruited from outside the developing regions, but in most cases they are accompanied by consultants from the South.

116. In Africa, considerable efforts have been made to develop and strengthen the technical and human capacity of national news agencies in 35 countries through projects in West, Central, East and southern Africa. Assistance has also been given to restructuring and strengthening the Pan-African News Agency. The news agency development projects have contributed to improved collection and dissemination of news and information among African countries and between Africa and developing countries in other regions.

117. Among the Arab States, the Radio and Television Training Centre of the Arab States Broadcasting Corporation has been assisted in its programme of training radio and television personnel from the region. The training activities have contributed to enhancing networking and collaboration among media professionals in the region. The exchange of news and feature programmes among national television stations has been supported.

118. In Latin America and the Caribbean, a concrete example of action to address the specific communication needs of the region and promote South-South cooperation is the Communication for Integration project. This recent joint initiative by UNESCO and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) aims at the setting up of a regional network of newspapers specializing in economic and financial matters, as a contribution to the overall integration of the region.

119. In Asia and the Pacific, the Pacific Women's Television Programme Exchange project aims at encouraging collaboration among television stations in four Pacific Island States in the production, evaluation and exchange of local programmes, especially by women television producers. The Pacific Video Training Project helped to develop communication skills in the Pacific Islands and strengthen cooperation among those States in organizing training programmes in radio broadcasting, print media and video at the subregional and regional levels. Assistance has been given to the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the Asia Mass Communication Research and Information Centre.

120. In respect of information in Latin America and the Caribbean, all UNESCO's information activities contribute to South-South cooperation in the region. In 1994-1995 for example, four consultants from Chile, Cuba and Venezuela worked in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama. In Asia and the Pacific, as referred to in paragraph 108, UNESCO assistance for the regional information networks ASTINFO and APINMAP should be mentioned. These are cooperative programmes which promote the exchange of information and experience among countries in the region.

121. Regarding informatics the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme has given high priority to the development of computer networks and their use in the

South. In Africa, this priority has materialized through the RINAF project (Regional Informatics Network for Africa) which enables scientists and practitioners to exchange information, knowledge and experience through existing computer networks. Since computer networks involve link-ups with institutions in both North and South, they are the starting-point for the establishment of information highways in the South. It is hoped that such an approach will reduce the existing imbalance in this field.

E. United Nations Population Fund

122. Since 1993 UNFPA is providing support to Indonesia for its South-South training activities, with multi-bilateral assistance from Japan, Australia and the Netherlands totalling US$ 1,760,000. In addition to this ongoing support to, in particular, Indonesia, but also to Tunisia, UNFPA is preparing an interregional programme of support of South-South cooperation for a number of selected "centres of excellence", to be included in the next four-year programme cycle (1995-1999). Criteria have been developed according to which for the time being four countries (as well as institutions) have been identified to become "centres of excellence". The identified "centres of excellence" will receive special UNFPA support to increase their capability to assist other countries in the field of population and reproductive health. The support will be, inter alia, for international training and exchange programmes, technical advisory services, inter-country research and long-term partnership building.

VI. SUPPORT TO COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Desertification

123. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (1994) was adopted by the INCD. Under article 4.2, all parties to the Convention commit themselves first to "promote cooperation among affected country Parties in the fields of environmental protection and the conservation of land and water resources", as they relate to desertification and drought.

124. Second, within the relevant regional implementation annexes of the Convention, affected country parties are required to cooperate in the preparation of subregional and/or regional action programmes (art. 11). In particular, African country parties are responsible for cooperating in preparing and implementing subregional action programmes for central, eastern, northern, southern and western Africa. To that end, they may delegate certain duties to relevant subregional intergovernmental organizations which will act as focal points for preparatory activities and as coordinators for the implementation of the subregional action programmes. The general purpose of subregional and regional action programmes is to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of the most important obligation under the Convention, namely the implementation of national action programmes. Cooperation in the context of subregional and regional action programmes includes agreed joint programmes for

the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, scientific and technical cooperation and strengthening of relevant institutions.

125. Thirdly, all affected parties are compelled, under articles 18.1, 18.2 and 16 of the Convention, to undertake cooperation in the areas of technology and traditional knowledge. Technologies that are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable should be developed and disseminated by way of cooperation in the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of the technologies. The cooperation entailed is of a financial and promotional nature and could be carried out either bilaterally or multilaterally to, inter alia: facilitate technology cooperation among affected country parties through financial assistance or other appropriate means; extend technology cooperation with affected developing country parties including, where relevant, joint ventures, especially to sectors which foster alternative livelihoods; and fully utilize relevant information systems and clearing-houses at all levels for the dissemination of information on available technologies, their sources, their environmental risks and the broad terms under which they may be acquired. Perhaps for the first time in this sort of legal instrument, the Convention recognizes the relevance of traditional knowledge. The parties are required to cooperate in the protection, promotion and use of traditional and local technologies. For example, the parties may actively support the improvement and dissemination of local and traditional technology, knowledge, know-how and practices or of the development of new technology based on them.

126. Fourthly, the Convention requires cooperation among parties in the areas of research and public awareness. The objective of research (art. 17.1) is the development of improved, affordable and accessible technologies for sustainable development to be carried out in cooperation with local populations and communities. To that end parties are required to support research activities that promote the conduct of joint research programmes by national, subregional, regional and international research organizations, in both the public and private sectors. Regarding public awareness, the Convention (art. 19.3) recognizes the urgent need to promote an understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought and, therefore, imposes upon parties the obligation to cooperate in undertaking and supporting public awareness and educational programmes which would promote the objectives of the Convention. Some ways of achieving this include the development and exchange of educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages, and the exchange and secondment of experts to train personnel of affected developing countries parties in carrying out relevant education and awareness programmes.

B. United Nations Environment Programme

127. UNEP's activities are devoted to protecting the environment. Some of these are undertaken by UNEP's Regional Programme. Thus, in Latin America and the Caribbean region, UNEP has an umbrella project for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted at the 7th Ministerial Meeting (October 1990). This project has 24 subprojects, including the provision of the secretariat, a regional programme on development planning and the environmental legislation and institutional framework, a regional programme on environmental education, a regional environmental training

network and a regional environmental information service. FAO and the Organization of American States (OAS) are major partners in this project.

128. In Asia and the Pacific, the following could be mentioned. As a follow-up to the forty-seventh session of ESCAP, an Inter-Agency Committee on Environment and Development was established under the chairmanship of ESCAP's Executive Secretary with UNEP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific as Vice-Chairman. The Committee has been active in information exchange concerning the agencies' activities in the region, and has agreed to explore the feasibility of establishing a regional funding mechanism. Two sessions of the UNEP-ESCAP joint programming meeting have been held and three joint projects (chemicals and wastes, development planning and desertification) are being implemented. UNEP has also been supporting subregional programmes, namely the Asian Subregional Environmental Programme, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. UNEP is actively involved in the elaboration of the North East Asia Regional Environment Programme. ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP and the Asian Development Bank have agreed to co-sponsor the 1995 ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

129. In Africa the following could be mentioned. UNEP plays a central role in the implementation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) programme. The secretariat is provided by UNEP in close cooperation with ECA and OAU. When UNDP convened the African Regional Workshop for the implementation of Agenda 21 at Abuja, which was co-sponsored by UNEP, the African countries specifically recommended that AMCEN be enabled to play a lead role in the African post-UNCED follow-up. An African meeting of ministers on the Convention on Biological Diversity was held under the auspices of AMCEN in October 1994 for consultation to forge an African common position regarding the Convention. UNEP has fruitful cooperation agreements with many African subregional organizations and support is being provided, for example with respect to the SADC natural resources policy for southern Africa, the southern African subregional environment group and the SADC technical committee, the Zambezi Development Action Plan, the ECOWAS masterplan on desertification and the PTA environmental action plan for member countries. Additionally, the African NGOs Environment Network was established by UNEP for the purpose of enhancing the participation of African NGOs in environmental management in Africa.

130. In Western Asia the following merits mentioning. After the UNEP-ESCWA joint programming meeting in November 1989, several joint projects were initiated, including formulation of national plans of action to combat desertification and preparation and follow-up; assessment of water resources in the ESCWA region; regional survey of production and consumption of materials harmful to the ozone layer; and strengthening environmental planning and management capabilities in Jordan. Cooperation with the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) has led to the implementation of three projects in the fields of desertification control, control of industrial pollution and environmental education and awareness. In terms of cooperation with Arab regional organizations, UNEP has cooperation projects with CAMRE and Arab League Education, Culture and Science Organization (ALECSO).

131. In Europe, UNEP has participated in the development of multinational projects for the Eastern European countries. The Lucerne Conference on Environment for Europe in 1993 came up with concrete project proposals, and UNEP will make appropriate contributions to them within its available resources while making full use of information and expertise in the field of the environment.

132. Activities delivered at the regional level comprise another category of UNEP's activities. Regarding the management of tropical forests, UNEP provides assistance through the International Centre on Forest Research to assess the state of West African humid forests, with special emphasis on sustainable management and forestry development practices. In this project, important managerial gaps and practical methodologies on how to practice sustainable management and development of forests in Africa would be identified. UNEP also provides assistance through OAS for preparation of a forest management plan in border areas, and to La Amistad Biosphere Reserve, Costa Rica and Panama. Furthermore, in collaboration with FAO, UNEP has initiated regional dialogues to review the implementation of the forestry chapter of Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles. The dialogue has taken place in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. They reviewed available information on progress made in implementing Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles and identified issues of particular importance to the region to be reported to the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

133. Concerning desertification control, UNEP provides assistance, through joint undertakings with the regional commissions (ESCWA, ESCAP) and with FAO, to Governments for the formulation of national plans to combat desertification. UNEP also supports, in cooperation with other agencies, the establishment of networks and mechanisms for mobilizing other actions for the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD), Agenda 21 (chap. 12), the Convention to Combat Desertification and its urgent action for Africa (for example, research, training and development of methodologies for the assessment of desertification). The UNEP-UNDP joint venture (through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, has been assisting Governments to implement PACD in the Sudano-Sahelian region, channelling additional financial and technical assistance from other sources. In addition, UNEP continues to cooperate with subregional and regional organizations like SADC, IGADD, CAMRE, ALECSO and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Drylands (ACSAD) in providing assistance through them to their member countries for the implementation of PACD and Agenda 21 (chap. 12).

134. In respect of the protection of wildlife, genetic resources and ecosystems, UNEP provided support for the preparation of country studies on costs, benefits and un-met needs of biological conservation within the framework of negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Bahamas, Guyana, Nigeria, Poland, Peru and Thailand. At the national level, the objective is to help the countries in the preparation of their national strategies and action plans for effective conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. At the global level, the support was expected to facilitate agreement on the establishment of a fund in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

135. Concerning the management of oceans and coastal areas, the Regional Seas Programme, created in 1974 by the UNEP Governing Council and coordinated by the

Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre since its formation in 1985, at present comprises 13 regional programmes world wide, involving 140 States and cooperation with over 40 United Nations agencies and regional organizations including NGOs and development banks. Action plan secretariats coordinating regional activities have been established at Athens (Greece), Kingston (Jamaica), Santiago (Chile), Apia (Western Samoa), Kuwait, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Monaco and Bangkok (Thailand).

136. In terms of environmental law and institutions, UNEP provided support for a workshop on environmental legislation for countries in South Asia sponsored jointly by UNEP and the South Asian Cooperative Environmental Programme. UNEP also hosted a regional workshop for countries in Asia with rapidly advancing economies on institutional capacity building for industrial compliance and enforcement. In addition, initiatives were taken to develop inter-agency cooperation in the area of national legislation and institutions and training with UNDP and the World Bank. Those with UNDP were further developed through consultations between UNEP and UNDP on the strategy, scope and content of a joint programme of assistance to African countries with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands.

137. Regarding environmental education and training, UNEP runs two successful environmental training networks in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asian and Pacific regions. The main aims of these networks are South-South cooperation, information exchange and curricula and education materials development and policy. It is hoped to stimulate and assist tertiary-level education institutions in those regions to develop their centres of excellence for environmental education and training. Similar networks are being developed for Africa and the West Asian regions.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

138. Through its normative and field programmes at the global, regional, national and local levels in assessment and monitoring of land resources, policy and planning assistance, development and transfer of technologies, capacity building and demonstration in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and rural development. FAO continues to contribute actively to desertification control, drought preparedness and mitigation and integrated dry land development in affected countries.

139. In addition to its Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-income Food-Deficit Countries, FAO has several major programmes which contribute to desertification control and dry land development and provide support to affected countries in implementing the objectives of the Convention, particularly in Africa, notably the International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands, the Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture and the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Tropical Forests Action Programme and the Forests, Trees and People Programme, the African Real Time Environmental Monitoring using Imaging Satellites Project and the African Land Cover Map and Digital Geographic Database Project, the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme.

140. FAO provides special assistance to the Government of Mali in cooperation with UNDP and the Government of Germany for the formulation of its national action programme which is to start by several subnational and one national workshop (October 1995) involving local populations and NGOs as well as international partners. FAO is to assist the IGADD secretariat and member countries in the formulation of a subregional action programme within the framework of the Convention. This cooperation will concentrate on the formulation of the food security component of the programme and be facilitated through the recently approved FAO-funded project "Assistance to develop a drought and disaster preparedness strategy in the IGADD region".

141. FAO contributed to several workshops organized by member Governments and subregional organizations to discuss the formulation of action programmes within the framework of the Convention (e.g. Cape Verde, Egypt, CILSS, IGADD) and will continue to do so.

142. The FAO Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Barbados, 7-10 April 1992) gathered, for the first time, developing island nations from across oceans. It provided a unique opportunity for those countries to discuss their objectives and priorities in agricultural development. Attended at ministerial level, it provided the political framework within which collaboration for sustainable development actions might be taken. The Ministerial Declaration endorsed at this conference was subsequently presented to UNCED. In the follow-up to this Conference, FAO is organizing two workshops for the South Pacific and Caribbean regions (1996). The objective of the workshops is to assist the Small Island Developing States in implementing the Programme of Action on Sustainable Development of SIDS endorsed at the United Nations Global Conference (Bridgetown, April-May 1994). Subregional programmes for sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries will be formulated. The implementation of subregional programmes will be based on networking and cooperation of SIDS for capacity building in this field.

D. United Nations Development Programme

143. UNDP is involved in two regional programmes on the environment. One is the North East Asia Subregional Programme covering China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea initially dealing with an environmental cooperation programme involving temperate zone cropping, coal combustion and air pollution problems. Launched in February 1993, 12 project proposals have now been developed in two areas, namely capacity building and eco-system management. The issues for urgent action have also been identified, namely, forest and grassland degradation, sustainable development of Russian Far East forests, biodiversity loss, watershed degradation and issues arising from economic integration. The second programme is the Caspian initiative aimed at preparing a plan for resource management and the conservation of biodiversity in the Caspian Sea. UNDP played a catalytic role in a joint fact-finding mission consisting of UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP. A concept paper for intergovernmental cooperation on an integrated environmental management plan for the Caspian Sea is currently being prepared. This initiative represents a

pioneering effort in the field and has the potential for replicability elsewhere.

VII. SUPPORT TO COOPERATION IN POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

144. The primary organization delivering support in the area of population is UNFPA and its activities are the subject of this chapter. Observation study tours and other types of exchange visits between developing countries have been funded by UNFPA over the past 15 years or more, allowing the participants to learn from the experiences of their colleagues in other countries with similar conditions. The best known in this category of activities are the observation study tours organized by the Indonesian Family Planning Association for a multitude of countries from the East Pacific, Asia, Africa and Latin America. UNFPA is providing support to this programme with Australian multi-bilateral assistance for the Pacific, with multi-bilateral assistance from the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands for study tours (and training programmes) for other Asian and African countries. In Latin America alone, a yearly average of 125 key persons in the population programme of their country visit neighbouring countries for the exchange of experiences and exposure to new ideas. Mexico was the country that received the most visitors from other countries from the Latin American region to learn from the Mexican family planning programme and to study management integration processes in population and development. In other continents also study tours have been a standard activity in many projects: Zimbabwe and Kenya have received numerous visitors to study their family planning programme activities, while countries such as the United Republic of Tanzania and Botswana have received project staff to study the long-term training in demography established at their universities.

145. An important part of UNFPA's support for TCDC activities went to the exchange of expertise and training of trainers. For example, with UNFPA assistance: an education specialist from the Indian National Council of Educational Research and Training assisted the Government of Bhutan in organizing training in population education; an expert on income-generation activities for women, from the Philippines, assisted a number of developing countries to design special programmes for women; and a population education expert from Trinidad and Tobago developed a curriculum and teaching manual for family life education in school for Barbados. Another example involved training of physicians from the Syrian Arab Republic in Egypt and Tunisia. UNFPA also made use of consultants from China to train medical staff in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in designing clinical studies for contraceptive research.

146. UNFPA has provided support both to the production of contraceptive supplies in developing countries, as well as to the testing and quality control of contraceptives. For example, with UNFPA's support Viet Nam, India and China have set up contraceptive production facilities; the Indian Institute of Technology has been involved in testing and quality control; and an expert from Mexico helped in devising quality-control measures for a proposed Cuban contraceptive production plant.

147. World wide, UNFPA has provided support to institutions in developing countries to offer substantial training programmes for participants from other developing countries. This was for short-term as well as long-term training. Care was taken that the training programmes were designed according to the needs of the participants, keeping in mind the relative strength of the host country or institution. Examples involving Asian countries included Indonesia, Thailand and the Republic of Korea providing TCDC-based training to participants from other countries of the region as well as from Africa and Latin America. In Indonesia the International Training Programme of the National Family Planning Board and, in the Republic of Korea, the Institute of Population and Health, provided training on family planning methods, communication and management. The Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand hosted trainees from Zimbabwe to acquire micro-computer skills. Thailand's Mahidol University provided courses on reproductive health and family planning for other developing country participants. In India the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum and the Indian Institute for Population Sciences in Bombay have continued to offer, with UNFPA's assistance, highly successful training programmes in population and development and in demography. These two Centres have brought together both trainees and experts from the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Cairo Demographic Centre in Egypt, the recently started training programme in population and development for Spanish-speaking participants in Chile, the Centre for Regional Planning at the University of Mines Derais in Brazil (providing training to students from Portuguese-speaking African countries) are among some of the other important regional and global training centres actively involved in TCDC-based training.

148. In Africa, the regional training institutes for demographic and statistics training in Accra and Yaounde are supported by UNFPA, as is the Mauritius Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Training Centre in Pamplemousse. The Statistics Training School in Abidjan receives trainees from abroad with UNFPA support, while UNFPA has strengthened the Institut africain de développement économique et de planification in Dakar in the area of population studies. The Centre for Research on Population and Development in Mali has received institutional support for training and to provide technical backstopping to population projects in the Sahelian region.

149. UNFPA is in the process of arranging that all five components of the Global Training on Population and Development will be located in developing countries; the course at The Hague will be transferred to Morocco and the course in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) to Botswana. The FP/MCH management and information training courses currently organized at Canadian universities will also be transferred to Africa.

150. The International Council on Management of Population Programmes in Malaysia has played a very active role in training staff of population programmes of English-speaking developing countries around the world in family planning programme management.

151. Culturally acceptable information, education and communication (IEC) programmes for family planning have been developed with the support of local NGOs, the private sector and local expertise. One example involves workshops in community-participation techniques for IEC workers organized by the Republic of

Korea. Locally produced films were purchased by UNFPA for use in neighbouring culturally similar countries. "My daughter shall not be circumcised" made in Burkina Faso, "Too late" made in Jamaica and many other movies were made in developing countries. Culturally sensitive IEC training courses have been mounted in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire. Another example consists of support provided to set up IEC training facilities with culturally adapted curricula at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication at Nairobi and Abidjan. A third example is the Centre for the African Family based at Nairobi and Lomé which has been supported through fellowships for its innovative IEC/FP training programmes. A fourth example is the publication of the book The Legacy of Family Planning in Islam by Al Azhar University in Cairo which has become an important tool in IEC campaigns in support of MCH/FP programmes in an increasing number of African countries. The "travelling seminars" initiated by Al Azhar during which the position of Islam vis-à-vis issues such as family health, family planning and female circumcision are presented and debated have become a very welcome innovation in IEC campaigns.

152. Extensive assistance has been provided for workshops, seminars, conferences and similar gatherings which serve as forums for exchange of technical information and experiences and further contacts among experts and officials of developing countries. For example, the staff of the demographic unit of the University of Lesotho visited similar units in Botswana and Swaziland. High-level government officials from China, Ethiopia and Yemen visited Egypt to discuss and observe population policy and programmes. Physicians from the Syrian Arab Republic were trained on how to use the contraceptive NORPLANT in Egypt and Tunisia. Women programme managers from Yemen visited Jordan for training in the administration of women's projects. TCDC-oriented training was also supported in Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

153. International training in developing countries and other activities have been supported to enhance the status of women. For example, the Organization of African Female Journalists was helped to organize a meeting for its members on issues regarding population and reproductive health. Another example is the Centre for Research, Documentation and Information for Women based at Tunis, which is providing training and research with support from UNFPA and the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).

154. Research is another area where South-South collaboration has been taking place. For example, in cooperation with AGFUND and the League of Arab States, the Pan-Arab Programme for Child Health has completed demographic surveys in Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen. Another important initiative was taken to encourage field-oriented training in research methodologies in Bangladesh, utilizing the resources of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research. Trainees from Africa, Latin America and other Asian countries have started participating in this programme. In Latin America, Honduran and Colombian experts provided research support to design socio-demographic indicators for studies in Costa Rica. Similarly, a database for El Salvador's Population Secretariat was developed with the assistance of experts from Costa Rica.

155. In case of emergency, in case of over-estimation of needs, for example, countries have assisted each other in the provision of contraceptive supplies

through the intermediation of UNFPA field offices. For example, the United Republic of Tanzania and Malawi received excess IUDs from Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau received oral contraceptives from the Gambia and Mauritania received injectables from Senegal. These experiences are typical of what is happening among developing countries in this field.

156. UNFPA field offices have undertaken since the early 1980s to assist Governments and NGOs with the integration of TCDC elements when formulating and implementing population policies and programmes. For example, Profamilia, the family planning NGO in Colombia, served as a regional centre for training in voluntary surgical contraceptive methods.

157. Assistance has been provided for the establishment of institutional networks among developing countries for exchanging knowledge, expertise and materials in mutually beneficial areas. For example, the Latin American Population Documentation System and the Latin American Council of Social Sciences used UNFPA assistance to promote information exchange, through a computerized database, among national agencies. Experts from Costa Rica helped to develop a database for the Population Secretariat in El Salvador. Moreover, a number of South Asian countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka) have set up a working group to share experiences on successes in population programme execution and to promote programme cooperation. UNFPA will provide secretarial support to the working group through the country support team (CST) based in Nepal. UNFPA also continued to provide support to the Regional Population Information Centre and Databank at ESCAP, Bangkok.

158. A start has been made with the promotion of cooperation and exchange among NGOs in developing countries, with particular emphasis on transfer of innovative concepts and techniques. For example:

(a) Prior to the regional conferences preparing for the International Conference on Population and Development, seminars were held for NGOs of each continent to sensitize them to population issues and TCDC. The Safe Motherhood Initiative that started in Nairobi resulted in active national programmes. The Planned Parenthood Federation of the Republic of Korea organized regional training workshops in community-participation techniques for women family planning programme managers. Regional meetings initiated by Ministers of Women's Affairs on the subject of female circumcision and locally initiated activities to combat circumcision in several West African countries were supported by UNFPA;

(b) UNFPA also provides support to regional NGOs such as the Union of African Population Studies, an organization which promotes African expertise in the area of population, by subsidizing research, publications and conferences on subjects of prime concern such as population and the environment, and reproductive health.

159. UNFPA headquarters, with the collaboration of UNFPA country offices and the UNFPA CSTs, has started to establish a roster of national experts and institutions available for technical backstopping of projects. This roster will also be useful for the TCDC-INRES (Information Referral System) database for

population-related information. TCDC-INRES is currently being finalized by UNDP (Special Unit on TCDC). The UNFPA consultants roster is already being used.

160. Developing countries and expertise are also extensively used by UNFPA in its programme review and strategy development exercises and in the design and evaluation of UNFPA-assisted projects ("peer-review"), while training is being undertaken to strengthen the national capacity in programme formulation, planning, management/administration and evaluation. For example, experts from developing countries have been systematically included in most of the teams undertaking evaluations and programme review and strategy development exercises on behalf of UNFPA. Also, ILO, ESCAP, FAO, the International Council on Management of Population (Malaysia), the Center for Development and Population Activities (Washington, D.C.), the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning and others have been very active in assisting developing countries in developing skills for project design, management and evaluation. ILO, for example, has carried out a comprehensive training programme for national authorities, employers' organizations and other concerned NGOs on population and family welfare in relation to labour.

VIII. SUPPORT TO COOPERATION FOR SOUTH CONSCIOUSNESS

161. The building of increased awareness in the South of the importance of economic and technical cooperation is essentially the responsibility of the developing countries themselves. Nevertheless, United Nations agencies and organizations have made contributions to that effect as already alluded to, for example, those activities geared to facilitating an exchange of experiences and sensitization workshops/seminars/training.

A. United Nations Development Programme

162. In view of the importance of the report of the South Commission, UNDP arranged for its widespread distribution to its country offices and Governments of member countries. The meeting of the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC held in May/June 1993 invited developing countries and United Nations organizations to examine, for possible inclusion in their activities of technical cooperation among developing countries, the recommendations of the South Commission, and also requested the Administrator of UNDP to report to the next session of the High-level Committee on this question. It should be added that the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the South Commission is monitored by the High-level Committee, which is to meet in May/June 1995. The Committee at its meeting in 1993 endorsed the Strategy for TCDC for the 1990s wherein guidelines on setting up TCDC national focal points and the articulation of national policies on TCDC were systematized and which was widely disseminated to all countries as well as United Nations agencies and organizations. A review of progress on the subject will be made at the Committee's next session.

163. UNDP has also assisted countries in organizing workshops and training programmes aimed at the relevant personnel both within and outside the Government on the need, value and opportunities for mutual cooperation.

Sensitization workshops were held in Nigeria (September 1993) and Zambia (October 1993). In March 1994 a unique interregional conference was held in Sierra Leone at which African NGOs sought to identify innovative approaches for strengthening South-South cooperation. Regional meetings were held in Bolivia (May 1994) and Turkey (July 1993) in which CIS countries also participated. SELA also held meetings of TCDC focal points of the region both in 1993 and 1994. As a matter of policy TCDC sensitization activities have been largely decentralized and nationals have been trained to undertake these activities. These initiatives have also helped to strengthen the capacity of Governments to articulate national policies on TCDC and ECDC.

164. Finally, UNDP has recently established, in consultation with the Group of 77, the G-77/UNDP award for TCDC/ECDC to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the G-77. The first award will be made in 1995 from among proposals that will be invited from Governments and institutions in developing countries. The award will be made to the proposal which is likely to make the greatest contribution to TCDC and/or ECDC.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

165. FAO's experience in its support to TCDC and ECDC activities are regularly evaluated and analysed with a view to drawing lessons and disseminating them for future application. A TCDC/ECDC newsletter, issued twice a year, continues to sensitize FAO and inform government authorities of innovative TCDC and ECDC approaches and opportunities and to disseminate information on completed/planned activities (see also chap. III). In early 1995, FAO issued a substantive document entitled "Learning from experience: technical cooperation among developing countries" analysing six experiences and drawing lessons therefrom for wider adaptation and replicability.

166. The integration of TCDC with the technical cooperation processes depends primarily on the familiarity of the national as well as United Nations staff with the TCDC mechanisms, financing, and its use as a modality in programme/project development and implementation. Three orientation workshops had already been held for the FAO headquarters staff besides briefing of regional offices and FAO representation staff during their visits to headquarters or headquarters' staff missions to the field. TCDC/ECDC is now a regular topic for the National Project Directors' seminars organized at headquarters as well as on a regional and subregional basis. Apart from other TCDC/ECDC publications, the FAO handbook on TCDC, currently available in all the five official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish) of the organization, is a very useful tool in enhancing awareness and understanding of TCDC concepts and procedures. To promote its wider use at the local level, the production of the handbook in local languages is also being encouraged and assisted. Several local language versions have already been produced in cooperation with the respective Governments and their institutions: Bengali, Hindi, Indonesian Bahasa, Kiswahili, Korean, Persian and Portuguese.

Notes

1/ Furthermore, it may be noted that in 1993, ESCAP received US$ 16,020,000 in cash from various sources within and outside the United Nations system for the implementation of its overall economic and technical cooperation activities. The donors that contributed to ESCAP's overall activities in 1994 were: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vanuatu.

2/ The Decade was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984 and its Phase II was adopted by the General Assembly in decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991.

3/ For an up-to-date review of the activities of the United Nations system undertaken in the area of science and technology for development generally, see the UNCTAD report entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development, including cooperation in technology assessment" (E/CN.16/1995/7). It should also be mentioned that today technology is an important variable underpinning the process of social and economic development. Accordingly, supportive activities delivered by the various agencies and organizations of the United Nations in their respective sphere of expertise invariably embrace elements of joint scientific and technological cooperation to create conditions for investing in, supporting and developing technological capabilities and skills. This can be gleaned from the discussion under the other chapters.

4/ It would be prudent to bear in mind that the Asian and Pacific region is the most diverse in terms of economic and social indicators as well as in culture, history and tradition. Some of the most populous and the least populous, some of the richest and some of the poorest, the largest and the smallest countries are to be found in this region.

5/ The background to the APPEAL programme is the fact that the biggest asset of the Asian and Pacific region is its abundance of manpower; unfortunately, for the moment, this is also its biggest liability in terms of illiteracy. Successive regional conferences of Ministers of Education have highlighted the importance of Basic Education for All for the region as its absolute priority before the turn of the century.